MORE
urban
myth.

urban myth.

INSTRUCTIONS

INSIDE THE BOX

Urban Myth the card game consists of six Truth/Myth cards and a deck of 194 game cards divided into six subject categories: Celebrity, Health, Classics, Nature, Business and Crime.

Strange facts and stories that may be true or may be urban myths appear on the front of the cards, along with the corresponding answer and category.

Letters spelling the words M-Y-T-H or T-R-U-E appear on the back. There are also wild cards which bear the Urban Myth logo. These cards can be used as any letter.

How to Win

The object of Urban Myth is to be the first player to spell either the word TRUE or the word MYTH by collecting the letters on the back of the game cards. Players earn these letters by correctly answering which tales are true and which are myth.

How to Play

When first opening the game, shuffle the deck well to ensure the categories are randomly distributed throughout. Provide each player with a Truth/Myth voting card.

Play begins with the youngest person who draws a card from the deck, announces the category and reads the statement printed on the card (without revealing the answer, of course) to the player on his/her left. If there are two stories, the reader should inform the player that the card has two parts and then read the first story.

After hearing the story, the other players immediately vote with their Truth/Myth cards (just to keep everyone involved). If they believe the story to be true, they place the TRUTH side of the voting card face up. If they believe the story is a myth, they face the myth side up. At this time, the reader tells the player whether or not he/she has answered correctly. If there are two stories on the same card, the player must answer both, one at a time. In order to keep the card, the player must be correct on both stories.

If the player is correct, she/he keeps the card. If the answer is incorrect, the reader gets to keep the card. Play continues clockwise and the player who answered the last question now becomes the reader.

If a player draws a Wild Card it may be used for any letter needed. Unwanted cards can be placed on a discard pile. Play ends when a player can spell either M-Y-T-H or T-R-U-E with the letters on the back of the cards he/she has collected.

Disputed Myths

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the game cards. However, if you have evidence to the contrary, we encourage you to send the proof to the Urban Myth link on www.rumbagames.com

RUMBA GAMES

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Made in China

The stories researched in this game are identified as true or myth to the best of the researchers' knowledge.

Business.

Hackers added a deadly computer virus to the popular Budweiser Frogs screen saver that wreaked so much havoc America Online and CompuServe issued warnings alerting the public not to download the software.

(Myth)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

008

Business.

A woman who paid $250 for a Neiman Marcus cookie recipe when she thought she was paying $2.50 posted the ingredients on the Internet when the company refused to give her a refund.

(Myth)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

007

Business.

As of July 1, 2000, America's four biggest credit bureaus started releasing credit information, mailing addresses and phone numbers to anybody who requested the data.

(Myth)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

010

Business.

Domino's Pizza employees have accurately predicted every major military action embarked upon in the last decade based on the number of after-hour pizza deliveries to the White House and the Pentagon.

(Myth)

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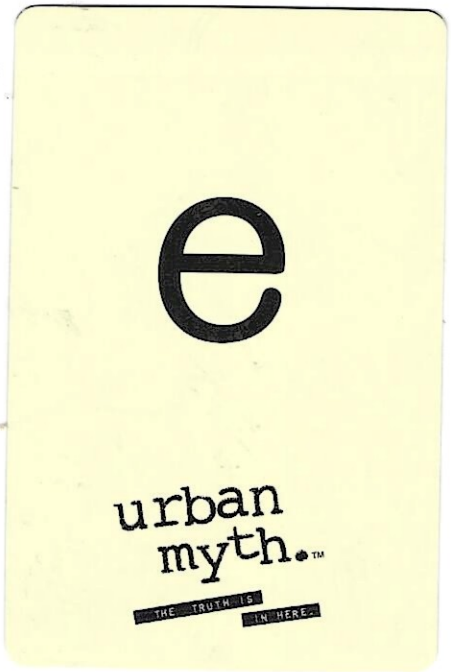
THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

009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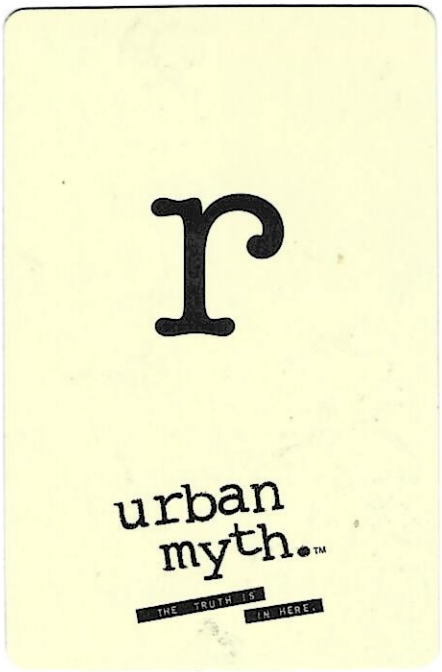
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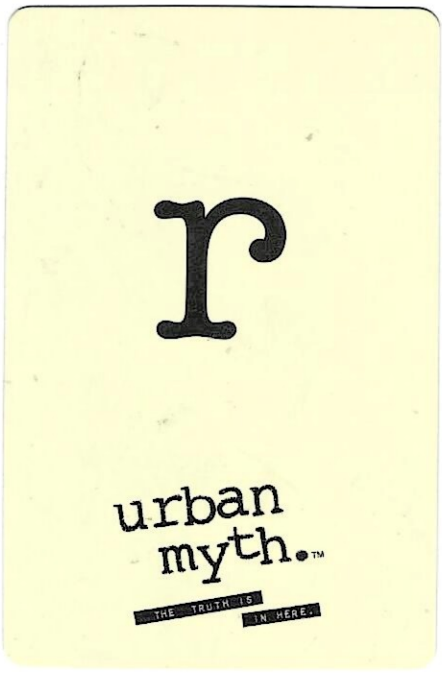
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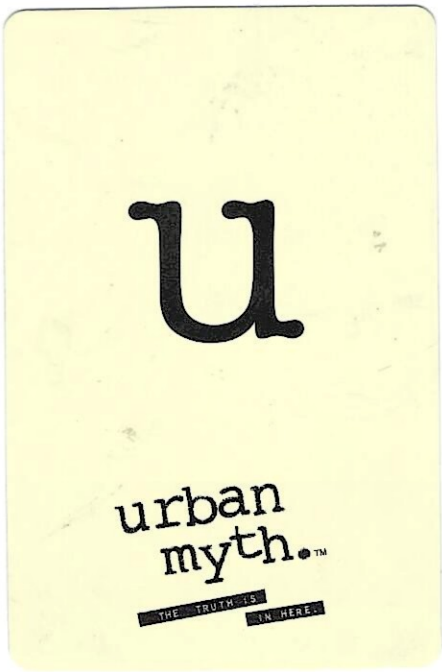
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Business.

Nylon was named for a conflation of 'New York' and 'London,' the two cities in which DuPont debuted its revolutionary product in 1939.

(Myth)

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012

Business.

Chef Boyardee is a fictional character whose name is the amalgamation of the company's three founders: Boyd, Art and Dennis.

(Myth)

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011

Business.

Coca-Cola introduced 'New Coke' in 1985 as a marketing ploy to increase demand for the 'Old Coke' and rebuild market share.

(Myth)

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014

Business.

Harley Davidson's V-Twin motor was designed to look like two nuclear mushroom clouds – a throwback to America's bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

(Myth)

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013

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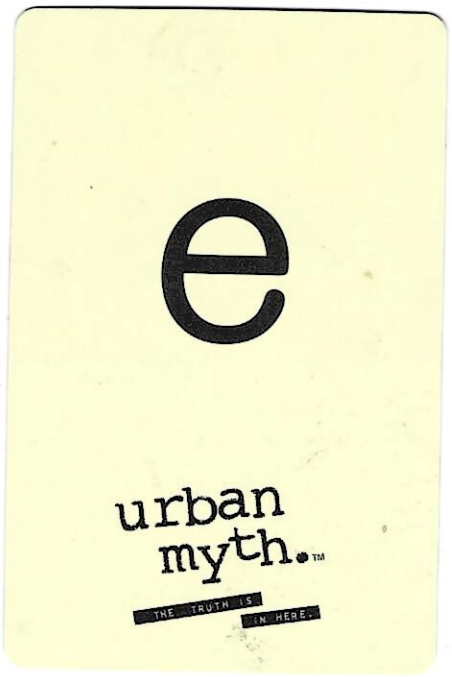
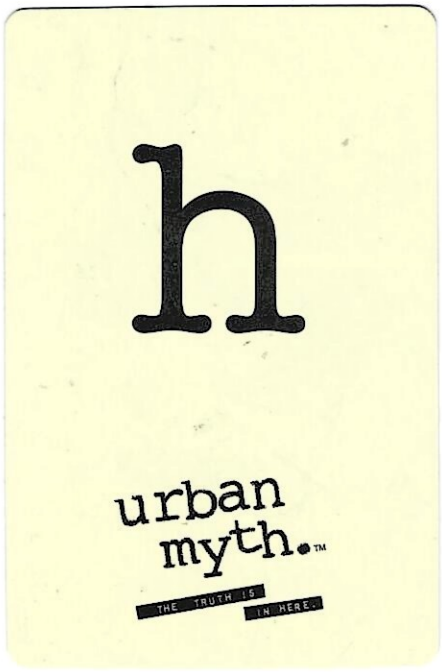
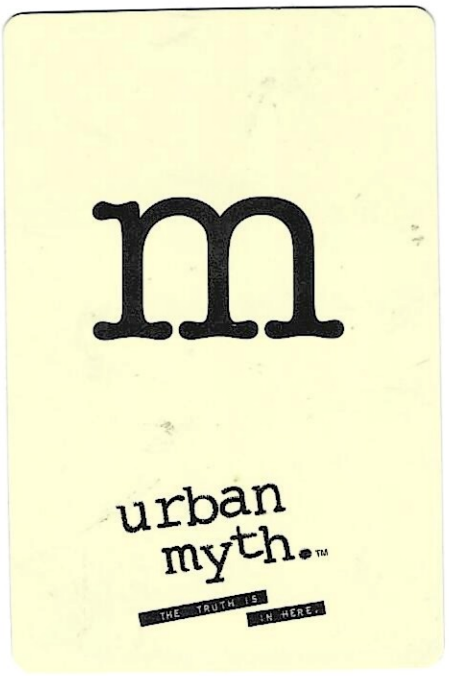
Wild Card

Choose any letter







Business.

Columbia House once offered a free CD to Internet users for forwarding a promotional e-mail to friends and colleagues.

(Myth)

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029

Business.

Several major carriers offer babies born mid-flight free airfare for the rest of their natural lifetimes.

(Myth)

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028

Business.

Honda once offered $200 towards a new car to Internet users for forwarding a promotional e-mail to friends and family.

(Myth)

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031

Business.

Chevrolet made a major corporate blunder when it launched its Nova sedan into Mexico – Nova means "doesn't go" in Spanish.

(Myth)

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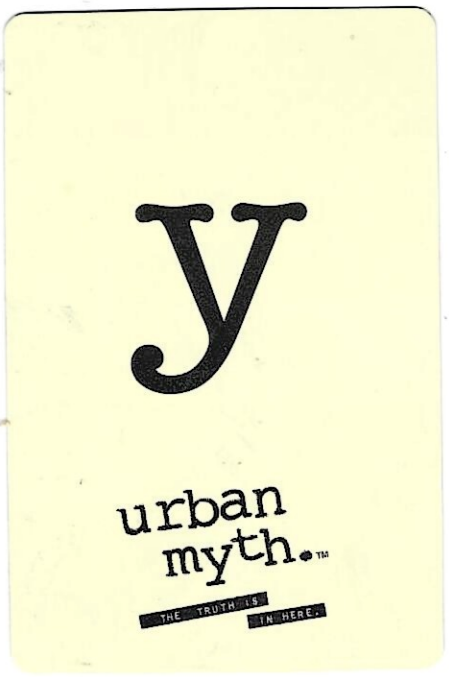
030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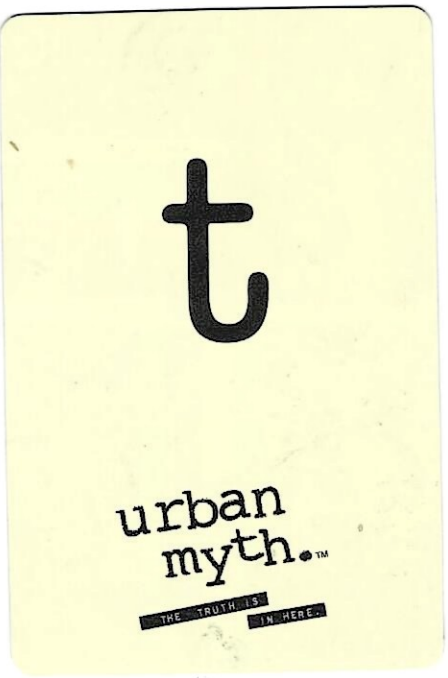
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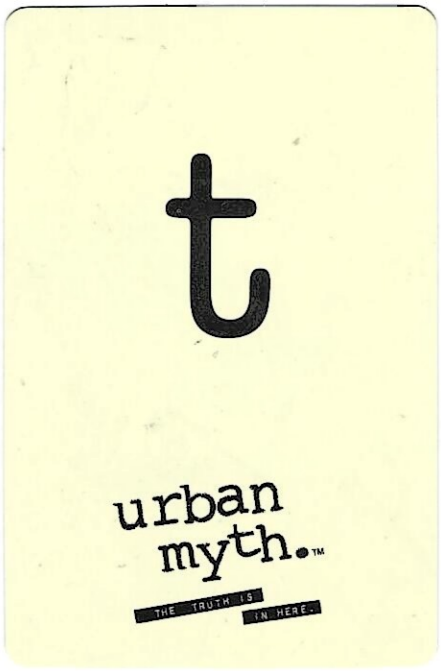
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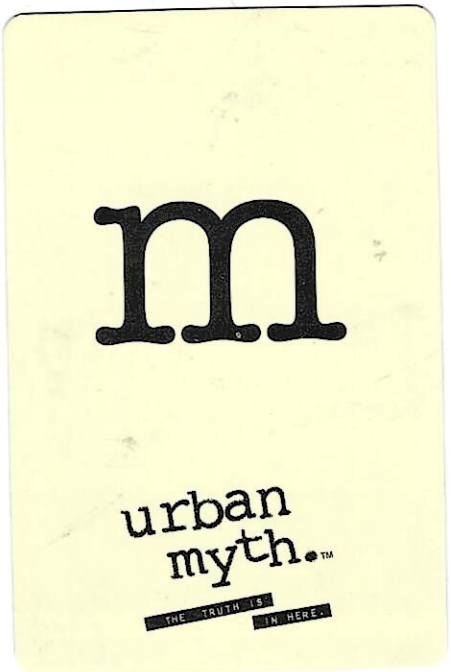
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Business.

The Canadian government attempted to impose a five-cent surcharge on e-mail after Canada Post reported a $23 million loss in revenue.

(Myth)

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033

Business.

Veuve Clicquot France offered a free case of champagne to Internet users for forwarding a promotional e-mail to friends and family.

(Myth)

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032

Business.

Post-it Notes were the result of an accidental marriage between a glue that didn't stick and a 3M researcher tired of losing the markers from his church hymnbook.

(True)

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049

Business.

M&M's turned down a product placement in the 1982 hit E.T., paving the way for Reese's Pieces to cash in on the film's success.

(True)

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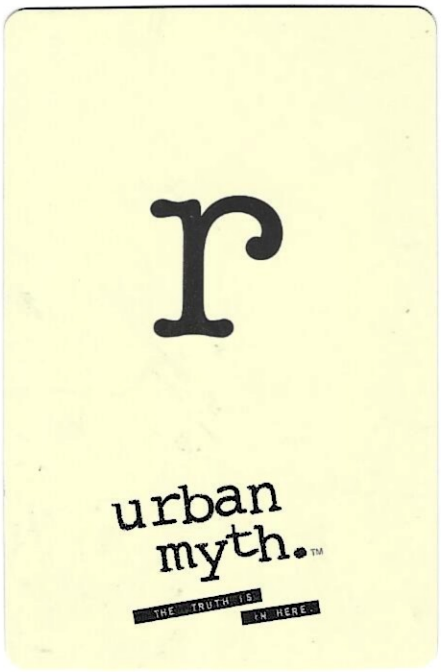
048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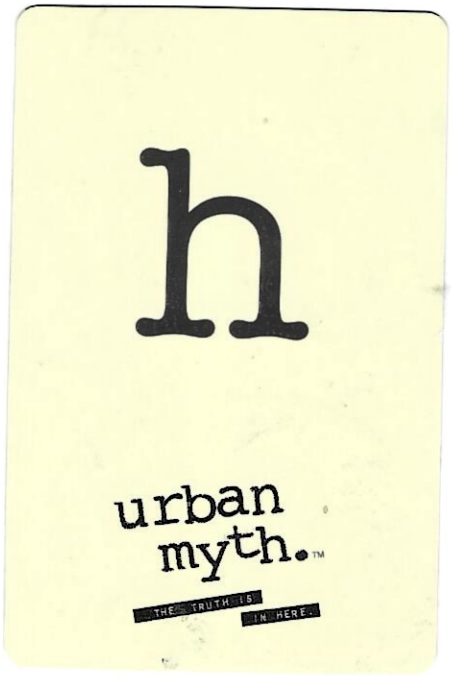
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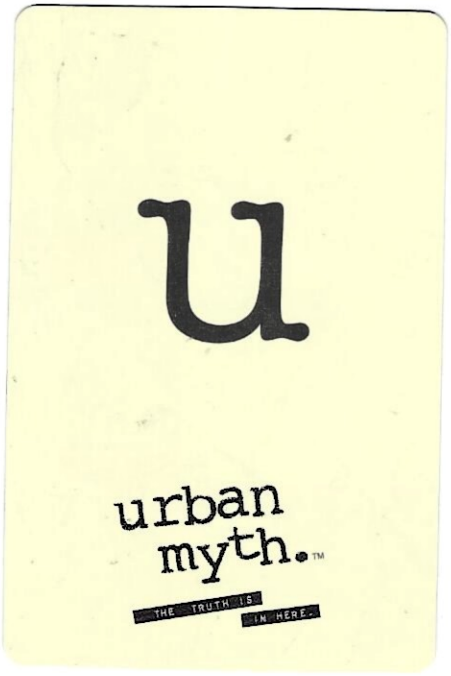
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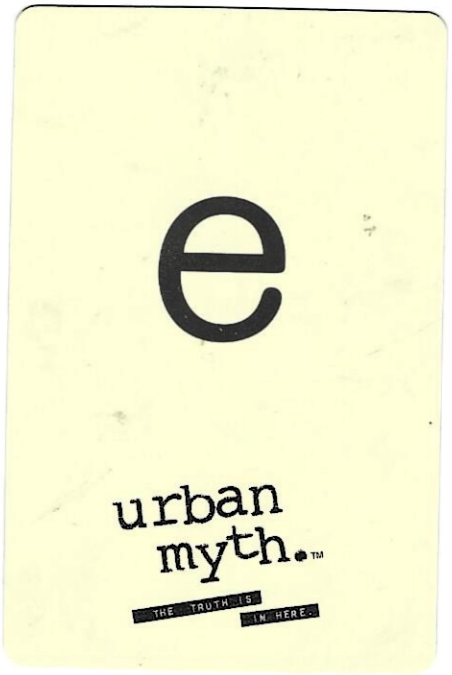
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Business.

A 21-year-old business student sued Pepsi when the company refused to redeem his 7,000,000 'Pepsi Points' for a Harrier fighter jet as advertised in their TV promotions.

(True)

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051

Business.

WD-40 stands for 'Water Displacement - 40th attempt.' The alpha-numeric name was taken straight out of the inventor's lab book in 1953.

(True)

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050

Business.

Unknown investors made millions of dollars by short-selling stock in United and American Airlines in the days leading up to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

(True)

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053

Business.

Great Britain turned down the Volkswagen business as partial payment of war reparations by Germany in the wake of WWII.

(True)

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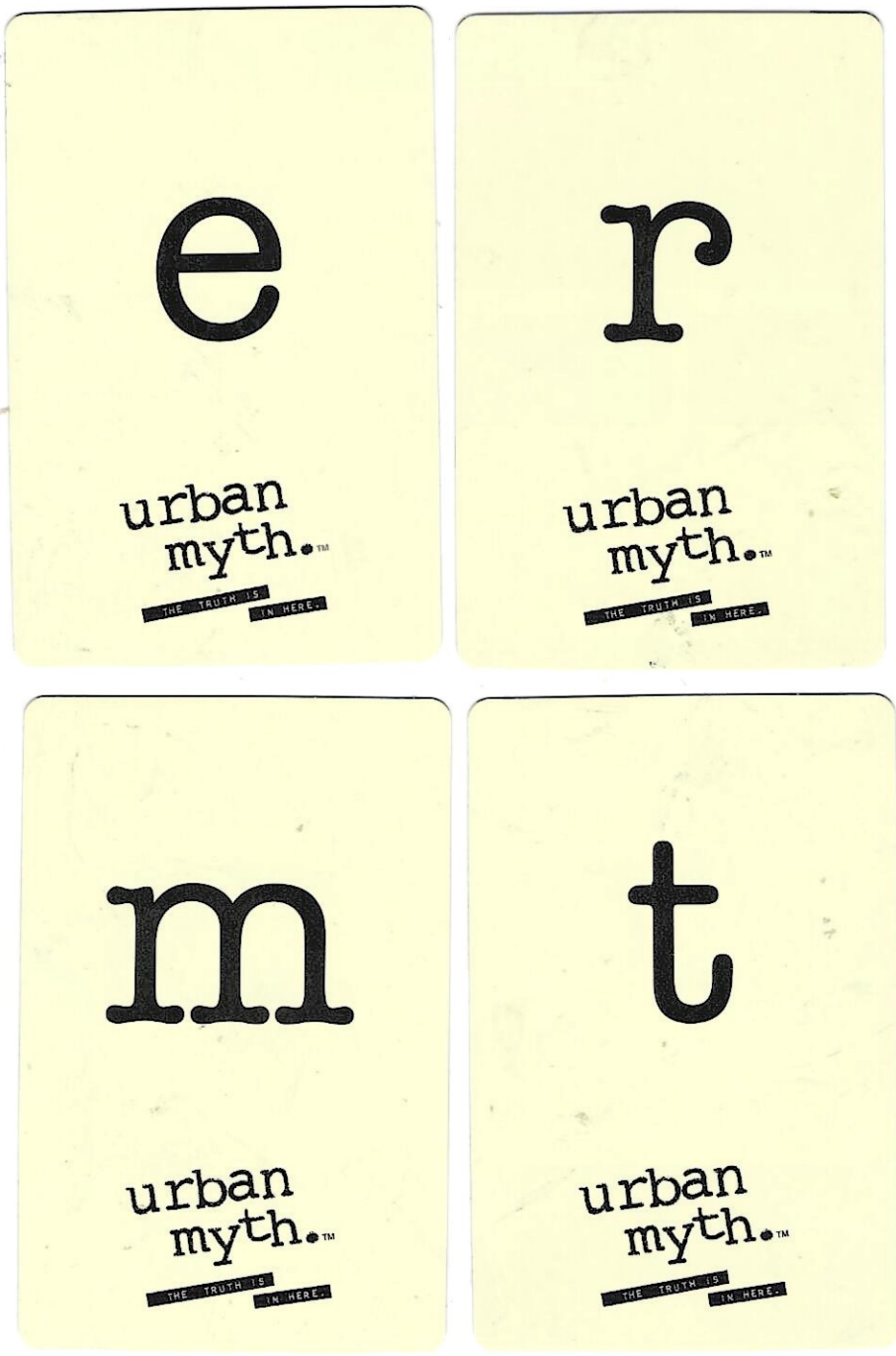
052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Business.

At the conclusion of a co-sponsored contest, AOL and Coca-Cola inadvertently informed more than 100 people that they had won the grand prize of $10,000.

(True)

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069

Business.

The FBI believes that since 1995 McDonald's prize contests have been won by the same eight individuals who conspired to corner the market on winning game pieces.

(True)

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068

Business.

The Newspaper Association of America named Kmart its "Retailer of the Year" one day before the company filed for bankruptcy protection.

(True)

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071

Business.

After filing for Chapter 11, Polaroid brass filed a request in bankruptcy court to distribute $19 million in stay bonuses to the company's top executives.

(True)

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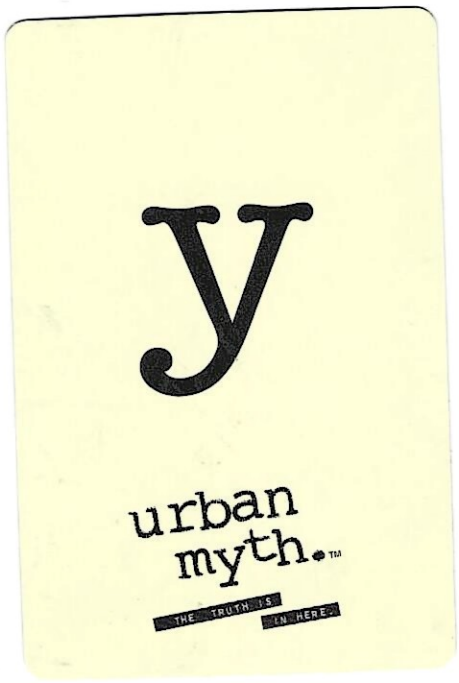
070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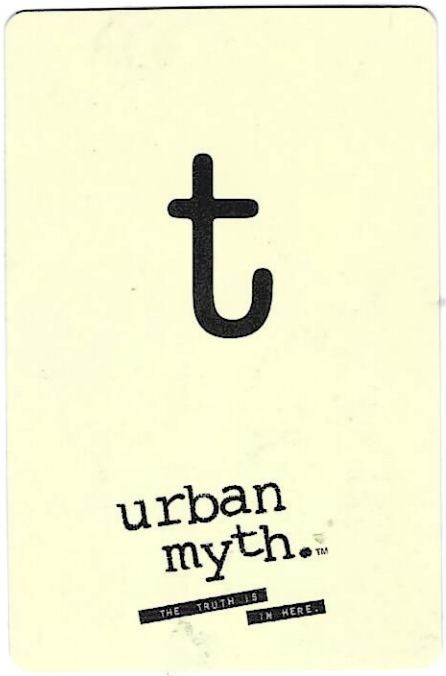
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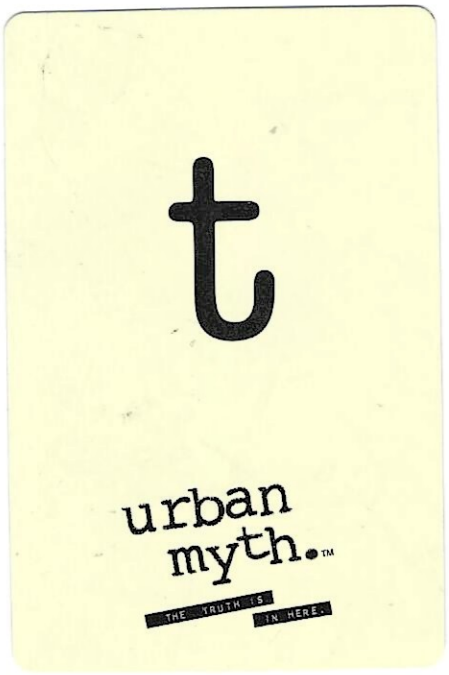
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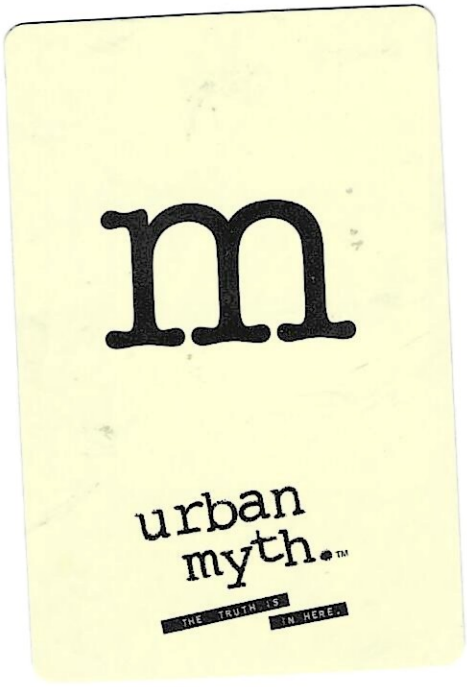
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Business.

After declaring bankruptcy in the wake of California's electricity shortage Pacific Gas & Electric awarded $17.5 million in retention bonuses to its executives.

(True)

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073

Business.

A tobacco manufacturer once unveiled a new brand of cigarettes with the slogans "all of the taste, less of the toxins" and "reduced carcinogens, premium taste."

(True)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

072

Business.

More frisbee discs are sold each year than baseballs, basketballs and footballs combined.

(True)

Hershey bars were used as currency in Europe during World War II.

(True)

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089

Business.

Elmer's Glue-All is the best-selling glue in America.

(True)

The first frisbees were empty pie tins from the Frisbie Pie Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut which went out of business in 1958.

(True)

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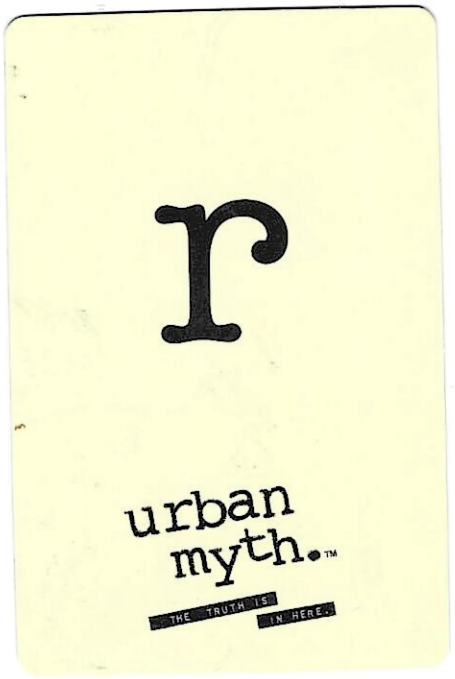
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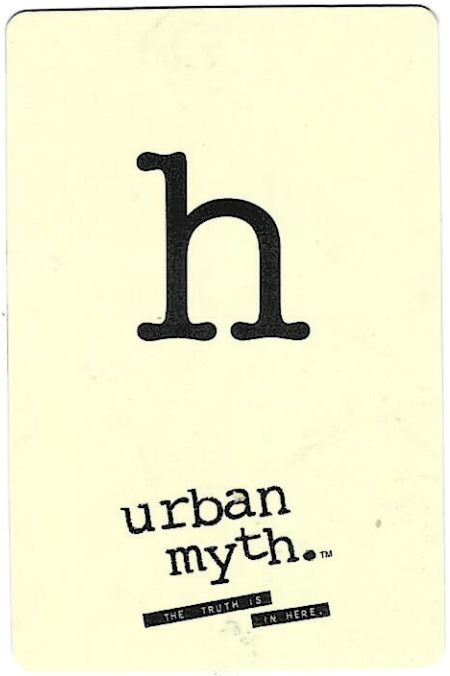
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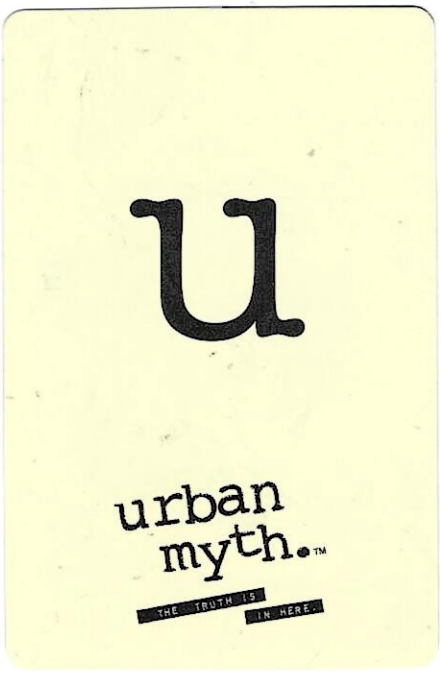
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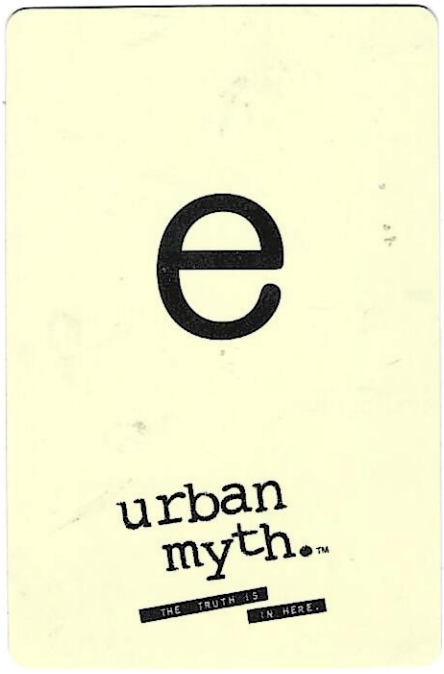
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Business.

The envelope wasn't invented until 1939.

(True)

Lloyd's of London does not write life insurance.

(True)

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091

Business.

Henry Ford was America's first billionaire.

(True)

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

(True)

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090

Business.

General Motors was the first company to earn $1 billion in one year.

(True)

The Ford Motor Company didn't go public until 1956.

(True)

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093

Business.

Al Capone was the first American to make $100 million a year.

(True)

Ronald Reagan was the first U.S. President to visit the New York Stock Exchange.

(True)

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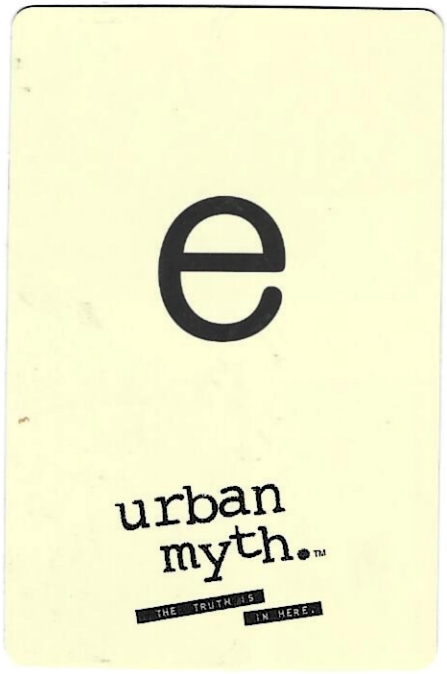
092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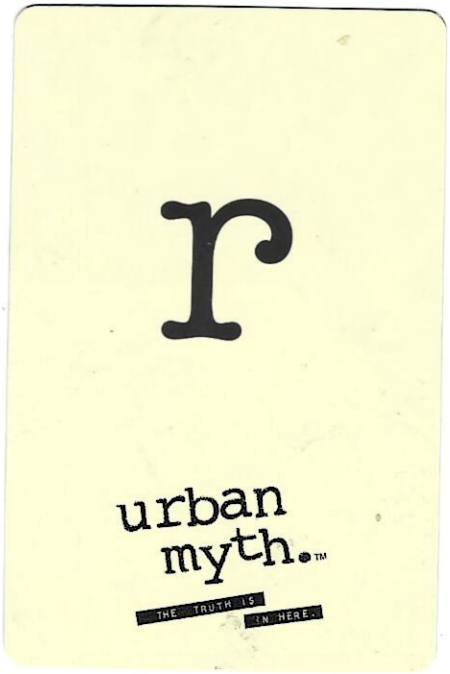
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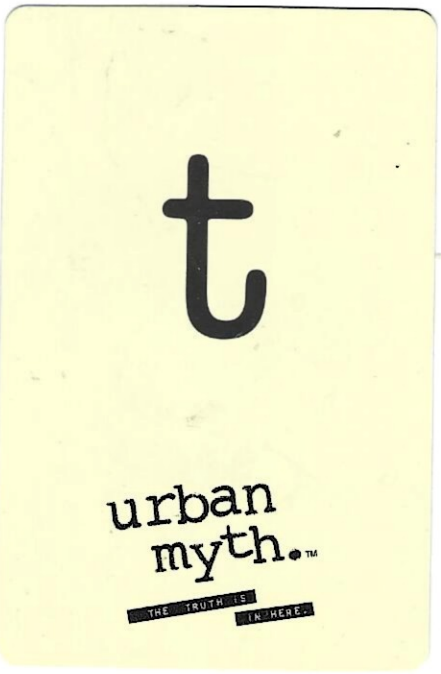
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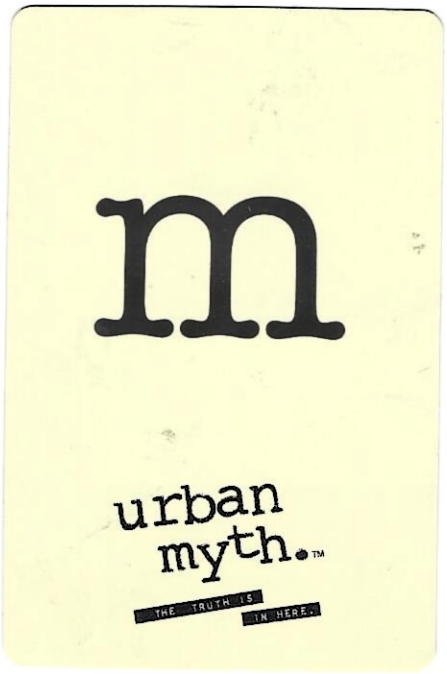
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Celebrity.

Bert and Ernie of Sesame Street fame were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's It's a Wonderful Life, one of muppet creator Jim Henson's favourite films.

(Myth)

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108

Celebrity.

After buying the rights to The Little Rascals, Comedian Bill Cosby destroyed all 220-plus episodes of show because of their negative portrayal of African-Americans.

(Myth)

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107

Celebrity.

Jim Henson's tragic death in 1990 prompted Sesame Street writers to give the muppet Ernie AIDS and slowly phase him out of the show.

(Myth)

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110

Celebrity.

Jim Henson's tragic death in 1990 prompted Sesame Street writers to give the muppet Ernie leukaemia and slowly phase him out of the show.

(Myth)

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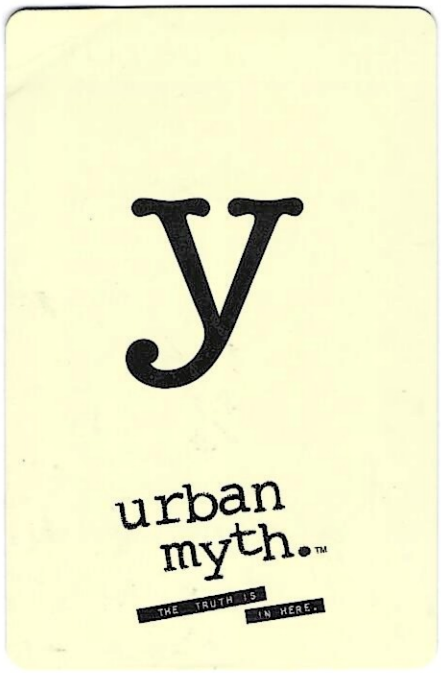
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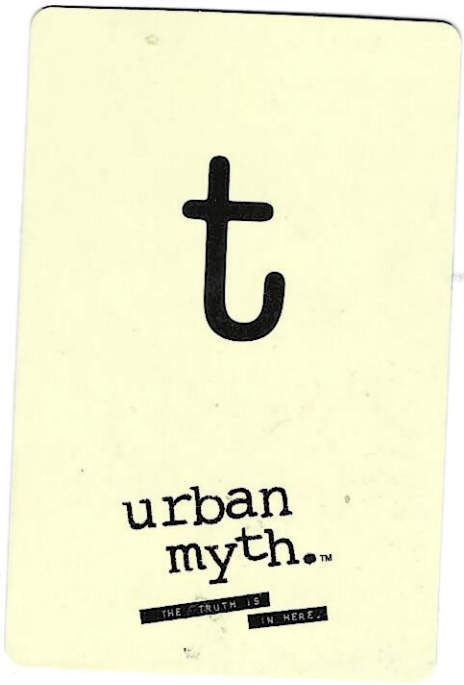
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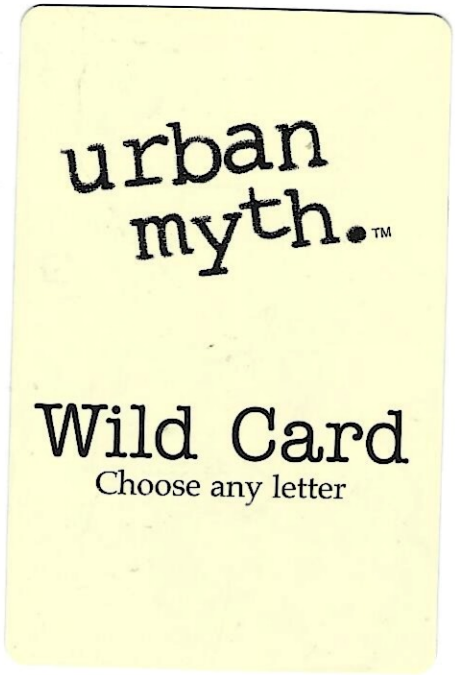
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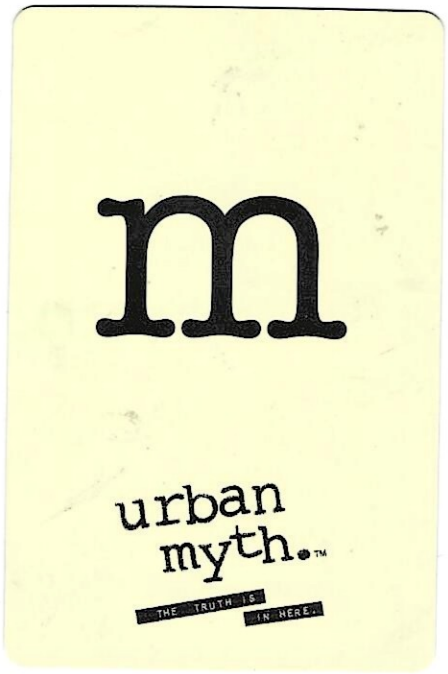
Wild Card
Choose any letter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Celebrity.

As a young man, actor Mel Gibson was horribly disfigured in a fight and had to undergo years of cosmetic surgery. His story is the basis for the movie The Man Without a Face.

(Myth)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

112

Celebrity.

Muppets Bert and Ernie of Sesame Street fame are in fact portraying a gay couple living together in the same discreet way that millions of American men and women do.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

111

Celebrity.

Humphrey Bogart's trademark lisp was the result of a WWI shrapnel injury sustained when his ship, the U.S.S. Leviathan, came under fire.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

114

Celebrity.

Humphrey Bogart had a younger brother named Ed who changed his last name and carved out his own success as host of The Ed Sullivan Show.

(Myth)

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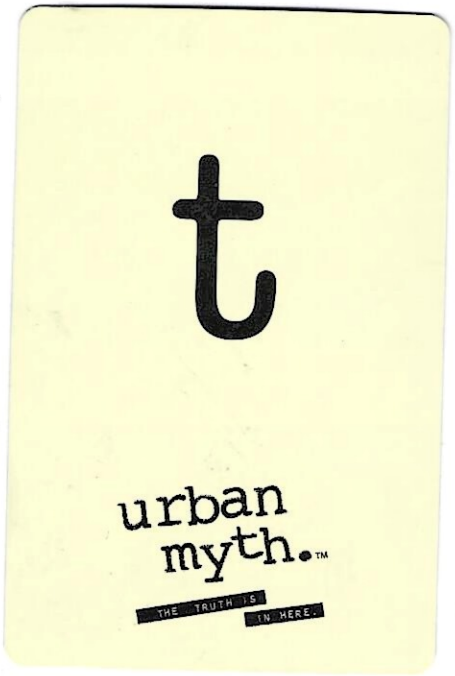
113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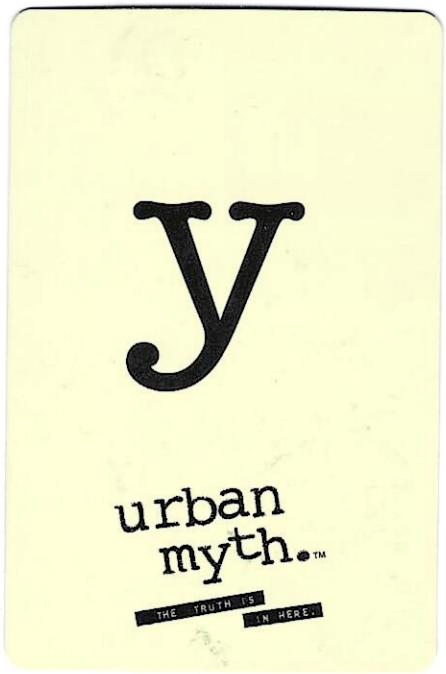
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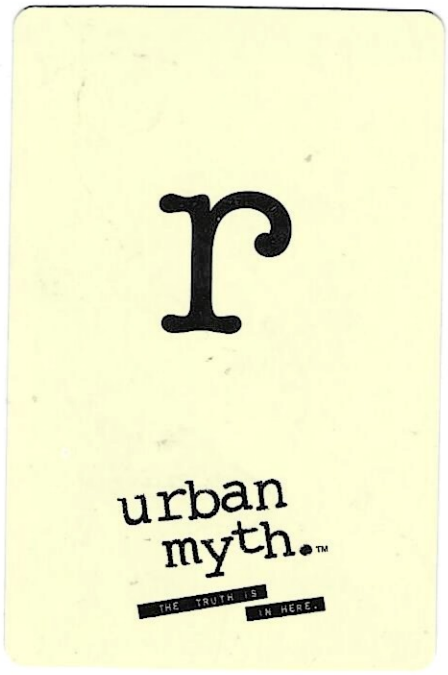
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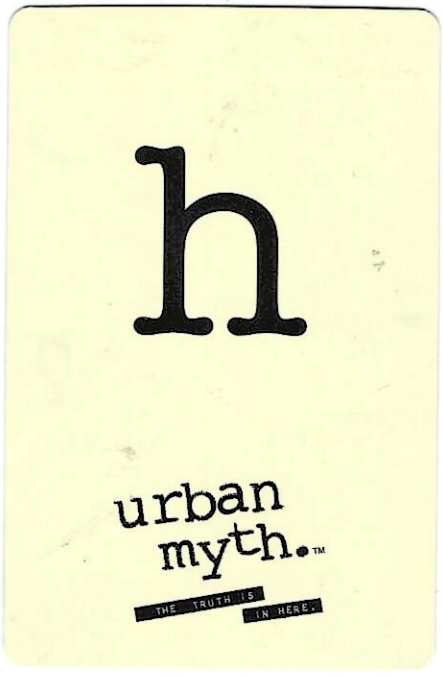
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Celebrity.

Action star Sylvester Stallone's first role as leading man was in a 1970's porno flick. Much to his chagrin, the movie was re-released after he had made it big on the silver screen.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

129

Celebrity.

Actress Dana Plato, one of the child stars of the hit TV sitcom Diff'rent Strokes, died in 1999 of a drug overdose. She was 34.

(True)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

128

Celebrity.

Philip Morris' first Marlboro Man, David MacLean, was diagnosed with emphysema in 1985 and died of lung cancer 10 years later.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

131

Celebrity.

Four of the stars of the Poltergeist trilogy have met with unfortunate and untimely ends, including Heather O'Rourke, the little girl who said "They're hee-ere."

(True)

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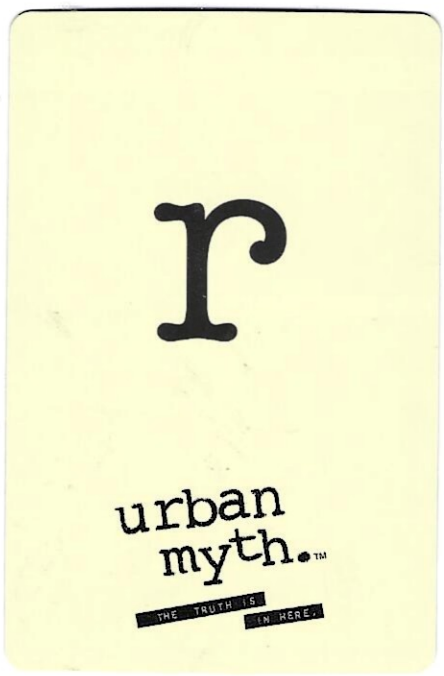
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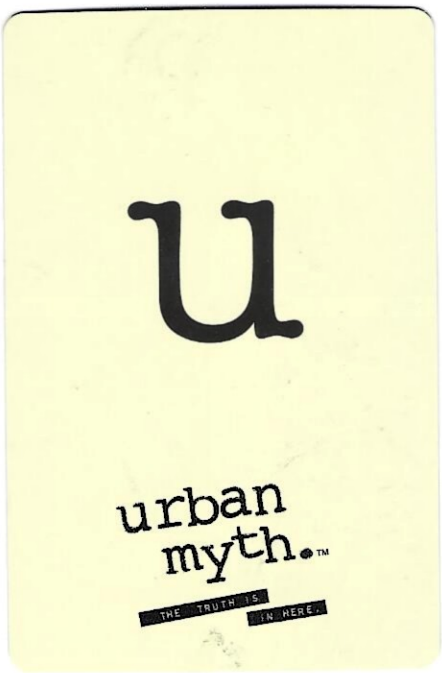
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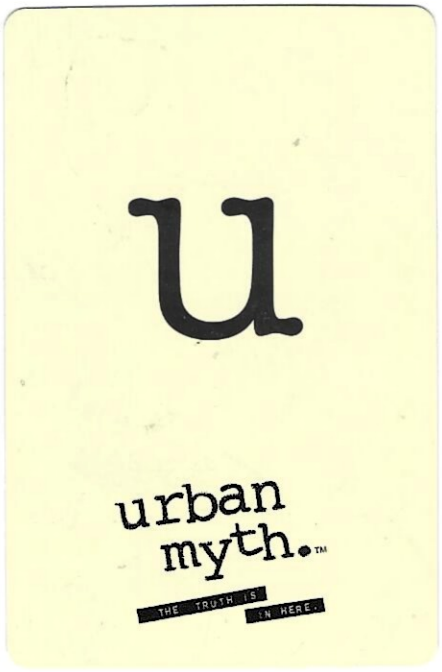
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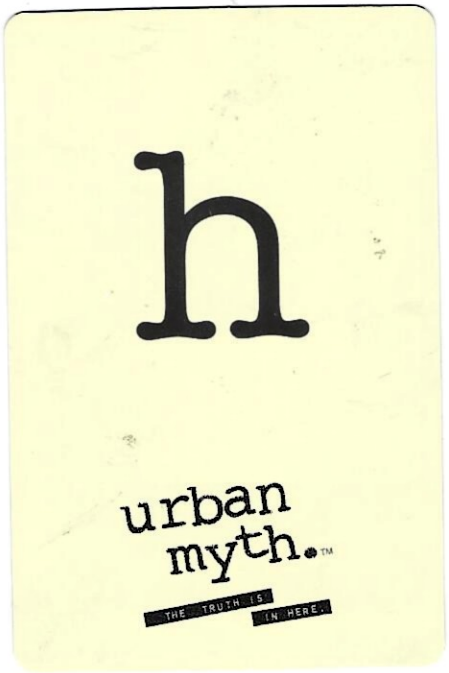
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Celebrity.

Shortly before his death, Gangsta' rapper Tupac Shakur told reporters he intended to step out of the limelight but said, "The only way I could pull it off, is if people think I'm dead."

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

133

Celebrity.

Four cast and crew members of Rebel Without A Cause have died tragically since James Dean's car accident, including his love interest, actress Natalie Wood, and his co-star, Sal Mineo.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

132

Celebrity.

Former U.S. president and actor Ronald Reagan was originally cast to play Rick in Casablanca but turned the role down.

(Myth)

Adolph "Harpo" Marx changed his name to Arthur to after World War II avoid any association with Adolph Hitler.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

149

Celebrity.

James Dean isn't dead; his accident left him disfigured and he has lived in seclusion ever since.

(Myth)

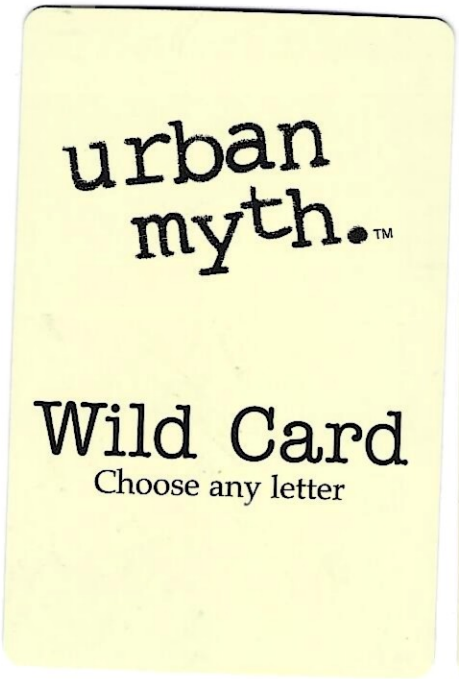
John F. Kennedy didn't die; he remains in a coma in a Dallas nursing home.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

148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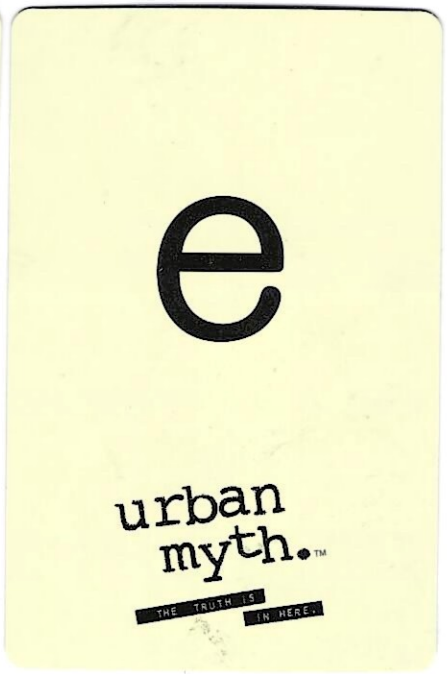
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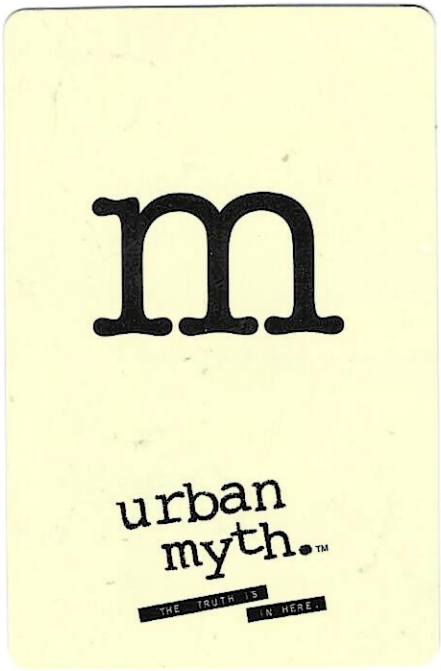
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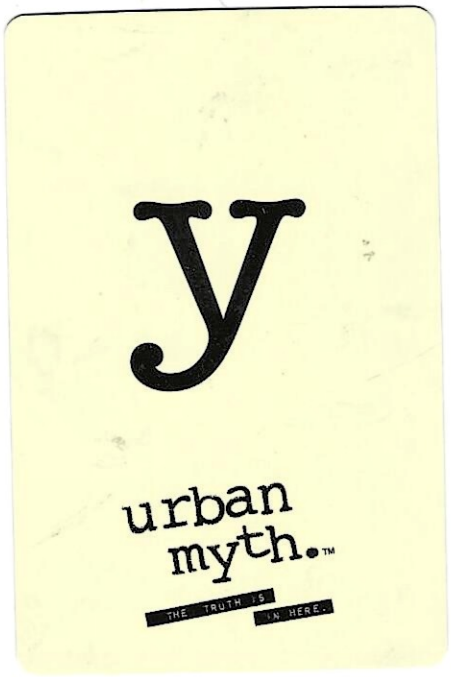
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Celebrity.

Jessica Rabbit appears to be sans underwear in several frames of Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

(True)

Anissa Jones, the actress who played Buffy on the hit TV sitcom Family Affair, died in 1976 of a drug overdose. She was 18.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

151

Celebrity.

The hit movie Fargo is based on a true story, which took place in North Dakota in the winter of 1987.

(Myth)

Adam Rich of Eight Is Enough fame died in 1996.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

150

Celebrity.

Actress Calista Flockhart had two ribs removed to reduce her waist size.

(Myth)

The photographic image of a topless woman can be seen in early editions of Disney's The Rescuers.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

153

Celebrity.

Sex symbol Marilyn Monroe was the model for Tinker Bell in Disney's Peter Pan.

(Myth)

Steve Burns, host of the children's show Blue's Clues, was killed in a car crash.

(Myth)

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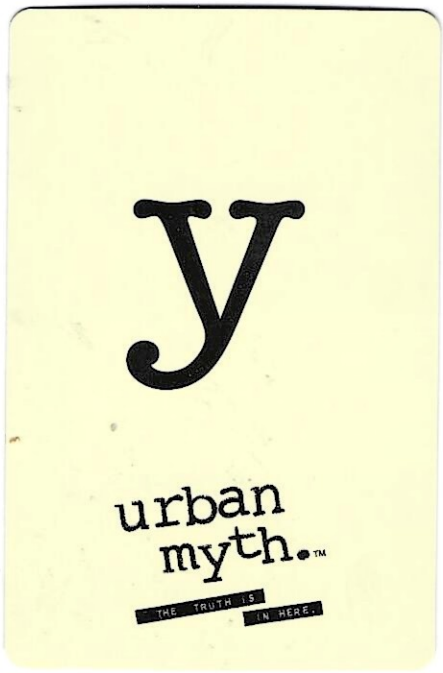
152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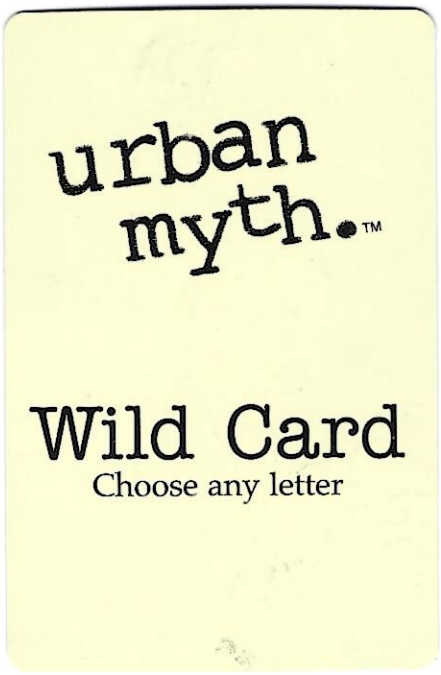
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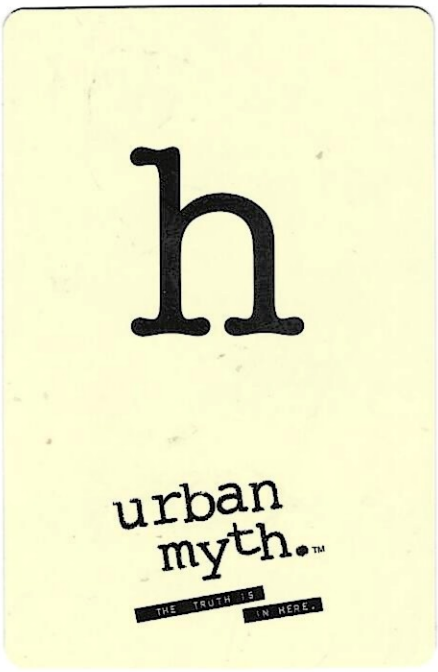
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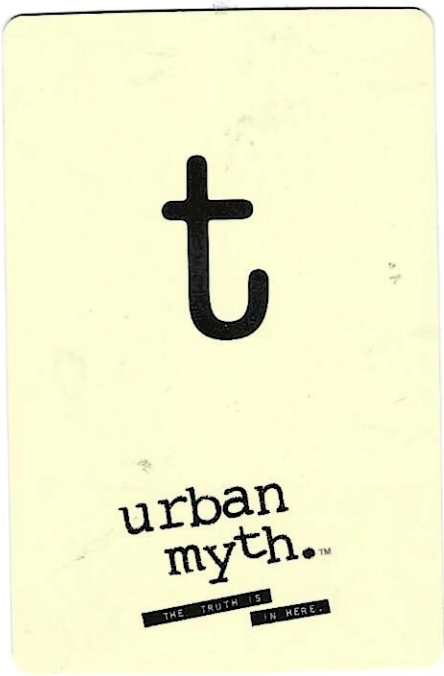
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Celebrity.

The nationality of The Green Hornet's sidekick, Kato, was changed from Japanese to Filipino after Pearl Harbour.

(Myth)

Mendelssohn wrote A Midsummer Night's Dream when he was 17.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

169

Celebrity.

More than 1,400 starlets auditioned for the part of Scarlett O'Hara in Gone With the Wind.

(True)

Hollywood was founded by a temperance society and experienced no crime until the film companies arrived.

(True)

urban myth.™

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168

Celebrity.

MTV comedian Tom Green had his show cancelled after he attended a Bar Mitzvah dressed like Hitler.

(Myth)

The Washington Post March by John Philip Sousa was named after the newspaper, The Washington Post.

(True)

urban myth.™

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171

Celebrity.

All My Children star Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller.

(Myth)

Beethoven was totally deaf when he composed his Ninth Symphony.

(True)

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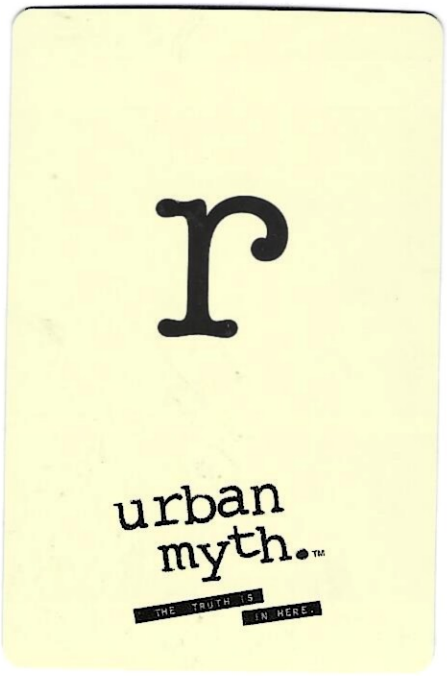
170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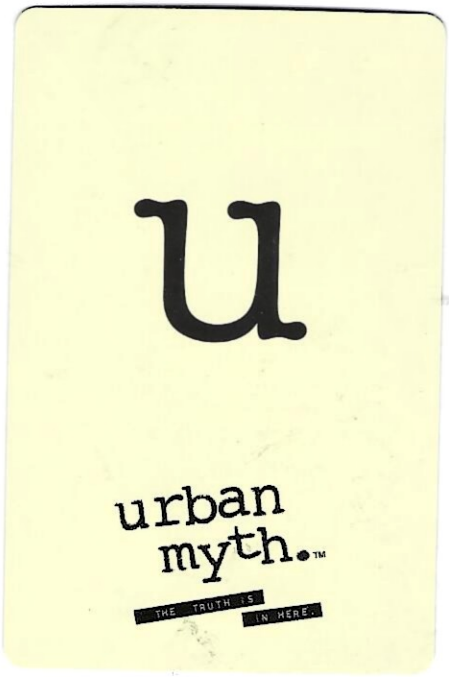
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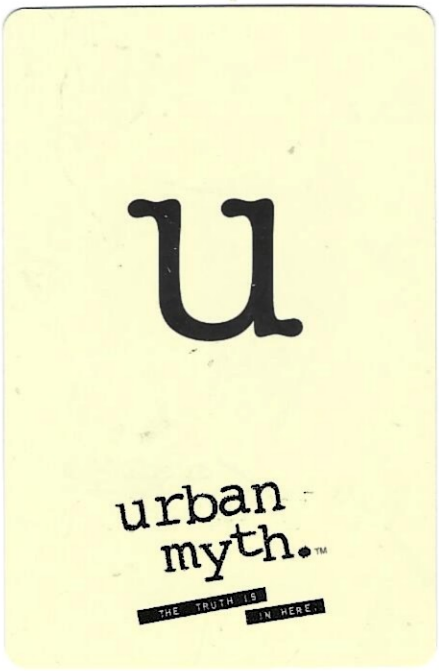
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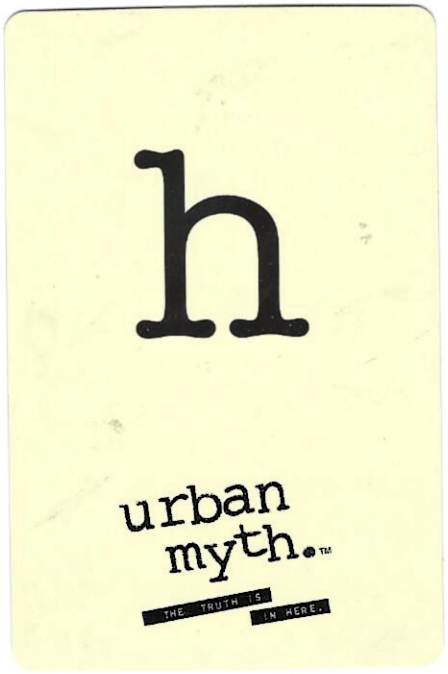
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Celebrity.

The actress who was covered with gold paint in the James Bond movie Goldfinger actually died while the scene was being shot.

(Myth)

Actor Burt Lancaster traced his ancestry back to the royal English House of Lancaster.

(True)

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173

Celebrity.

Movie critic Gene Siskel's will specified that he be buried with both thumbs pointing up.

(Myth)

No one knows where Mozart is buried.

(True)

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172

Celebrity.

Actor George Reeves of the original black and white Superman TV series died when, believing he could fly, he leapt out of a skyscraper window.

(Myth)

Timothy Leary attended West Point as a young man.

(True)

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189

Celebrity.

Adolph Hitler had an identical twin brother who died at birth.

(Myth)

A portrait of Woodrow Wilson appeared on the U.S. $100,000 bill.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

188

urban myth.™

Wild Card

Choose any letter

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

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urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

Celebrity.

John Denver served as a U.S. Army sniper in Vietnam.

(Myth)

Marlon Brando was expelled from Shattuck Military Academy in Minnesota for setting off firecrackers.

(True)

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191

Celebrity.

Phil Hartman's wife, Brynn, listened to the Smashing Pumpkins song Ava Adore continuously before she shot her husband and herself.

(Myth)

Woody Allen was kicked out of New York University after his first semester.

(True)

urban myth.™

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190

Celebrity.

Walt Disney shot a video before his death outlining his five-year plan for company executives.

(Myth)

MGM said Fred Astaire, "Can't act, can't sing, but can dance a little," after his screen test.

(True)

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193

Celebrity.

Actress Jayne Mansfield was decapitated in the car crash that claimed her life.

(Myth)

Katharine Hepburn was suspended from Bryn Mawr College for smoking a cigarette.

(True)

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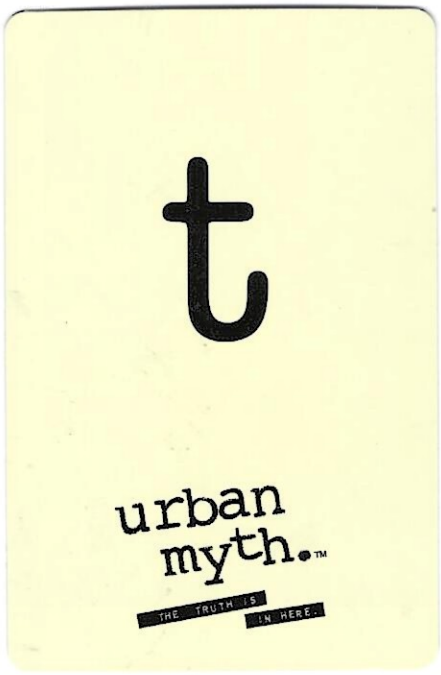
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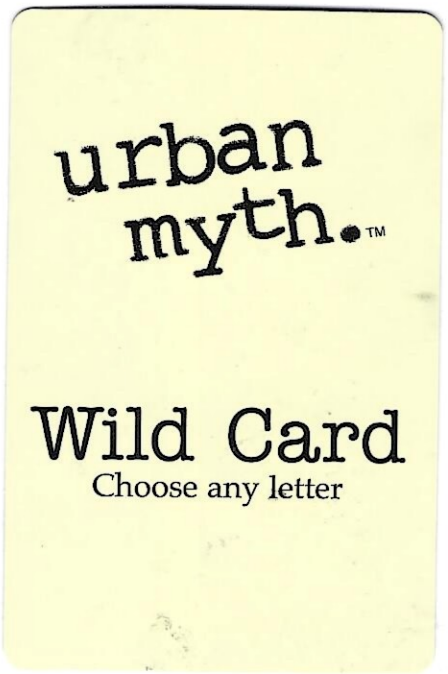
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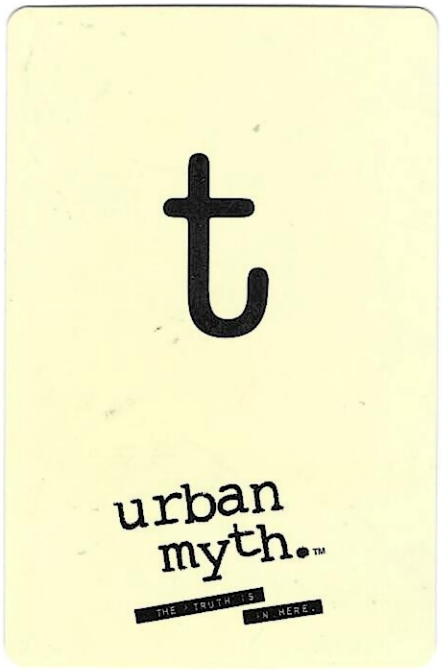
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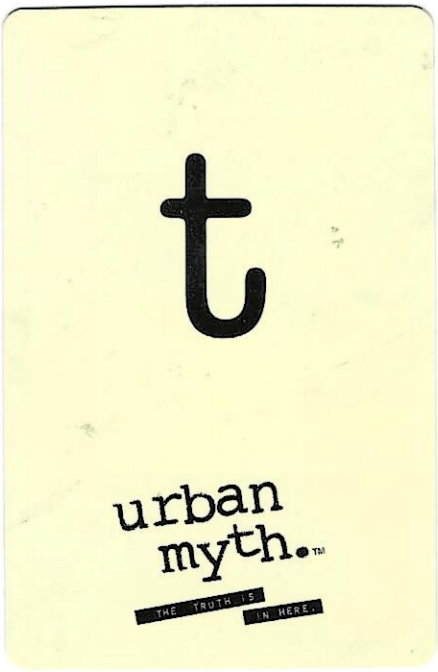
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Classics.

A college girl who agreed to meet an Internet Romeo for a clandestine rendezvous discovered to her horror that the man she had been conversing with online was her father.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

208

Classics.

A pair of New York pranksters once convinced hundreds of gullible workers that they were going to saw Manhattan Island in half because it was in danger of sinking.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

207

Classics.

An American film crew shooting in Toronto returned from lunch to find their intentionally garbage-strewn set swept clean by over-zealous sanitation workers.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

210

Classics.

A woman wearing an inflatable bra on a flight between New York and Los Angeles watched in horror as her bust line expanded exponentially, ripped through her blouse and exploded as the cabin pressure decreased.

(Myth)

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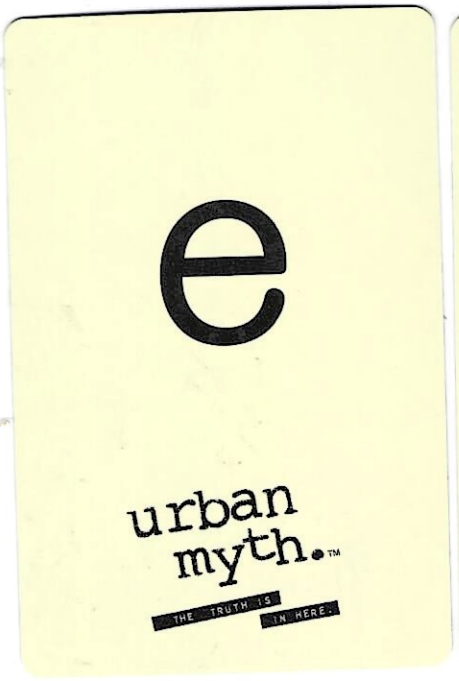
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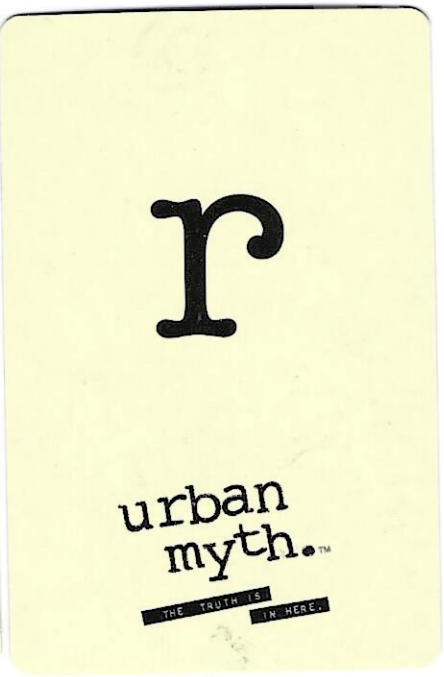
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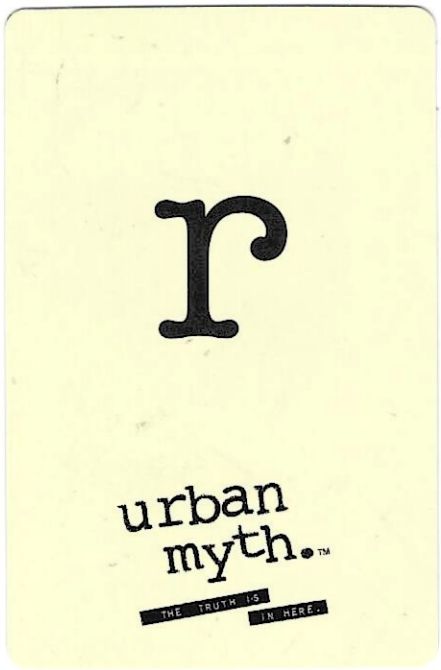
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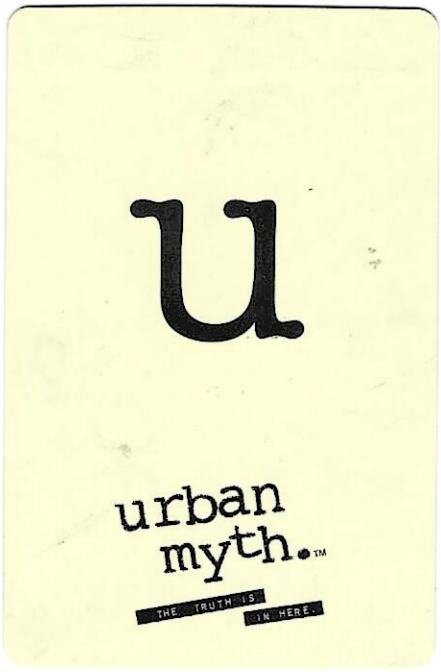
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Classics.

An application by renowned atheist Madeline Murray O'Hair under consideration by the FCC would outlaw religion from the airwaves and ban shows like Touched by an Angel.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

212

Classics.

A Scandinavian woman who flushed while seated on a 767 jet's toilet was sucked into the bowl and had to be pried free by rescue workers upon her arrival in New York City.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

211

Classics.

At half-time during Super Bowl, so many people flush their toilets at the same time that water pressure drops and sewage systems rupture in major urban centers.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

214

Classics.

In response to a question by Larry King on how she had lost weight, former White House intern Monica Lewinsky said she'd "learned not to put things in my mouth that are bad for me."

(Myth)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

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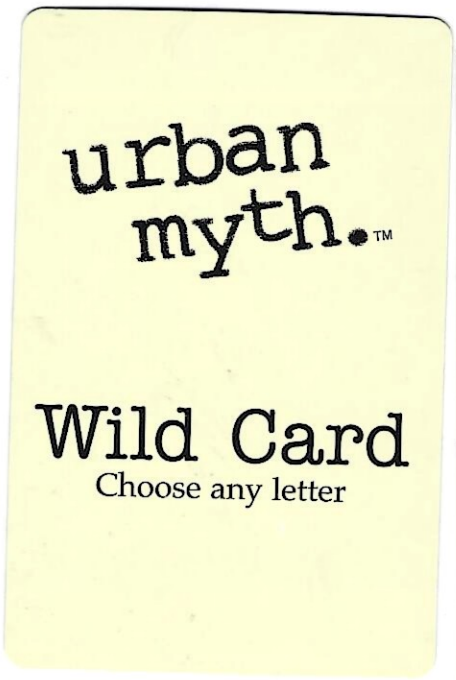
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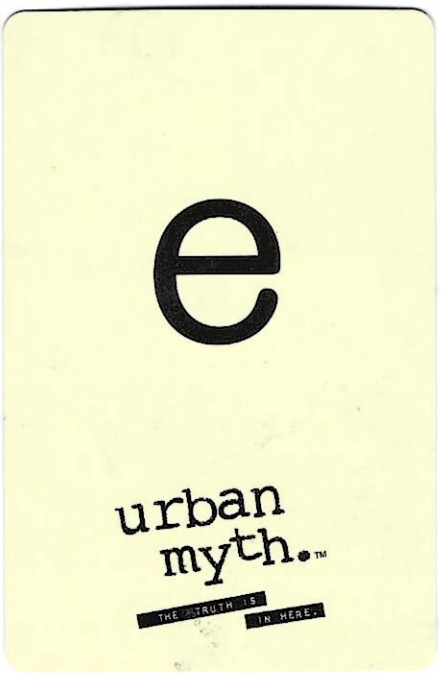
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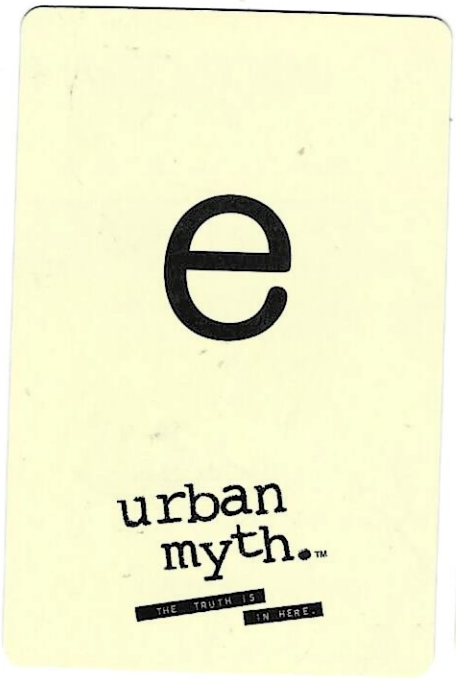
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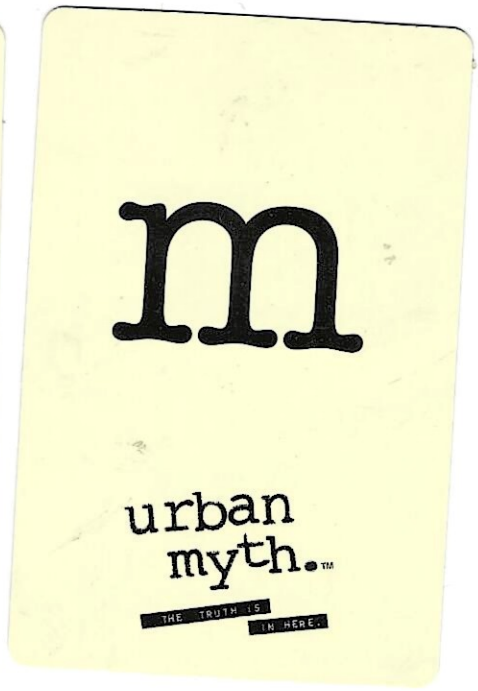
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Classics.

NASA has uncovered evidence suggesting a Biblical story about the earth standing still for 24 hours is true.

(Myth)

228

Classics.

You're automatically exempt from military service if you are an only child.

(Myth)

227

Classics.

The United States staged the lunar landings between 1969 and 1972 to one-up the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

(Myth)

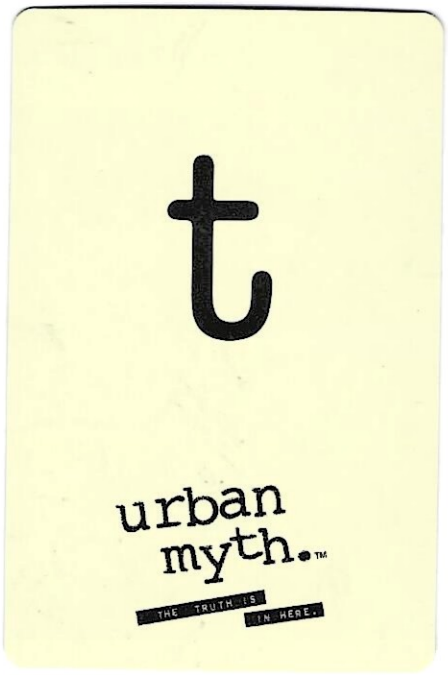
230

Classics.

NASA has conducted sex experiments to see if female astronauts will be able to conceive during space missions.

(Myth)

229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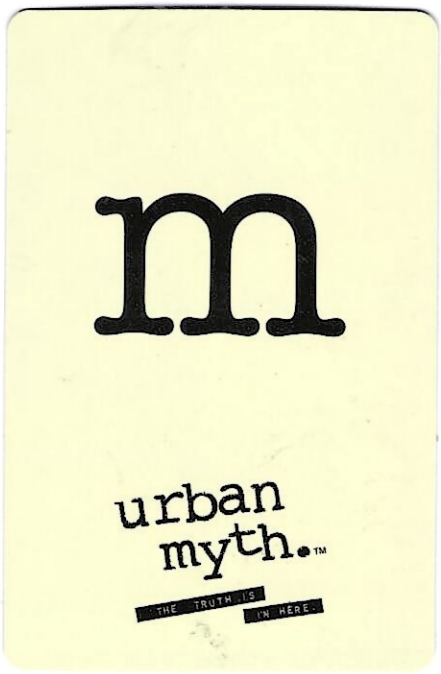
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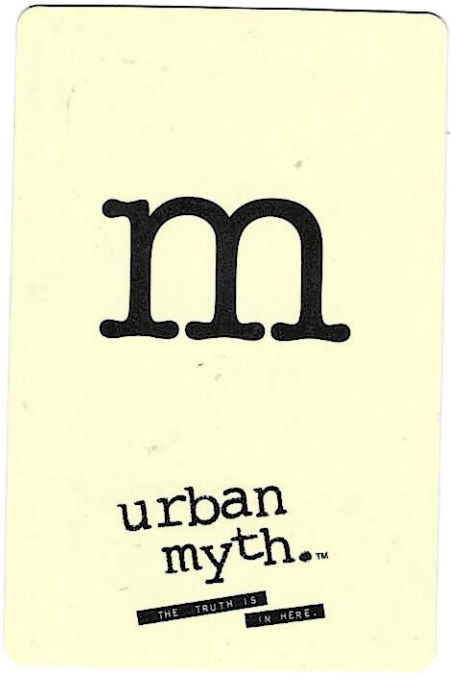
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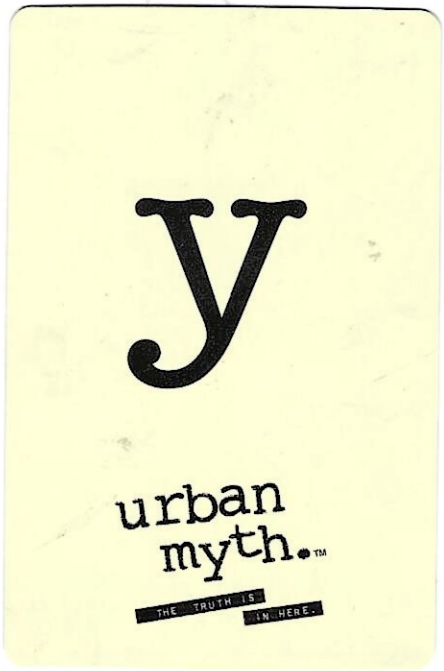
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Classics.

Nostradamus predicted the events of 9/11 in 1654 claiming that "two metal birds will crash into two tall statues in the new city."

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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232

Classics.

A secret tape recorded aboard the Challenger space shuttle captured the doomed crew's final moments.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

231

Classics.

The Model T was originally green; Ford changed it to black after realizing black paint dried faster.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

248

Classics.

Eel skin wallets made from electric eels react with the magnetic strip on the back of bank cards, rendering them unreadable by ATM machines.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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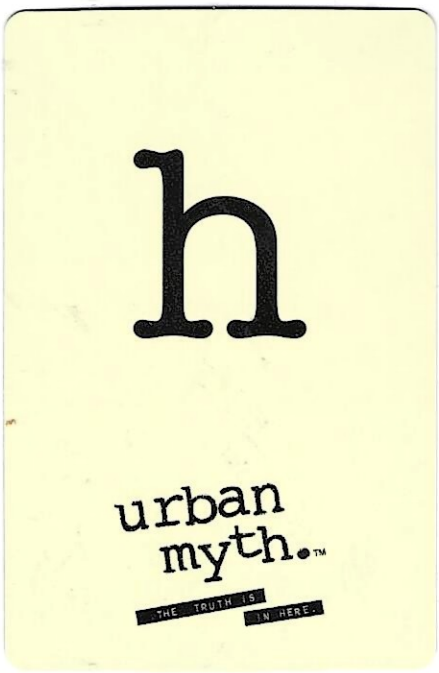
233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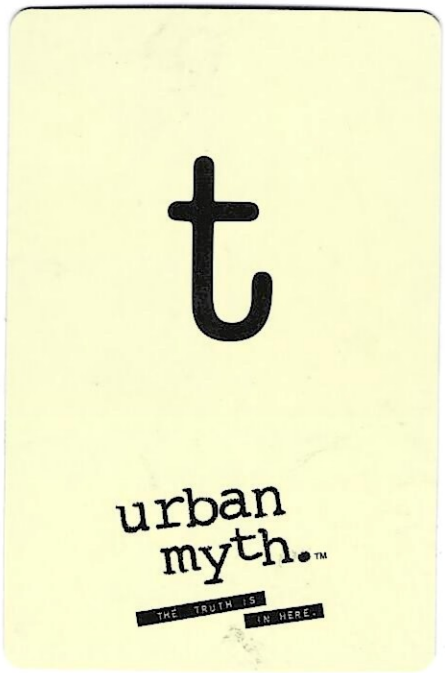
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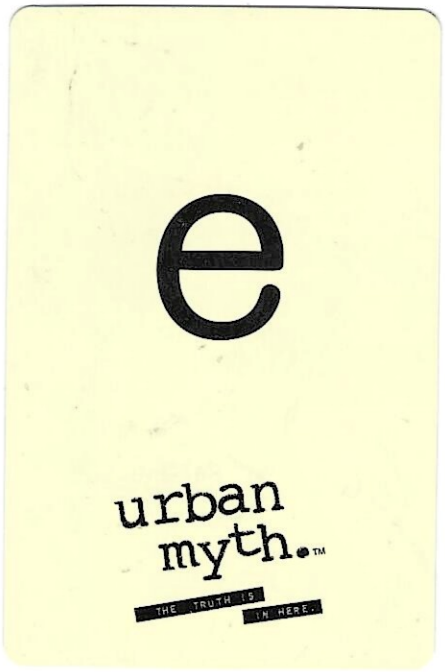
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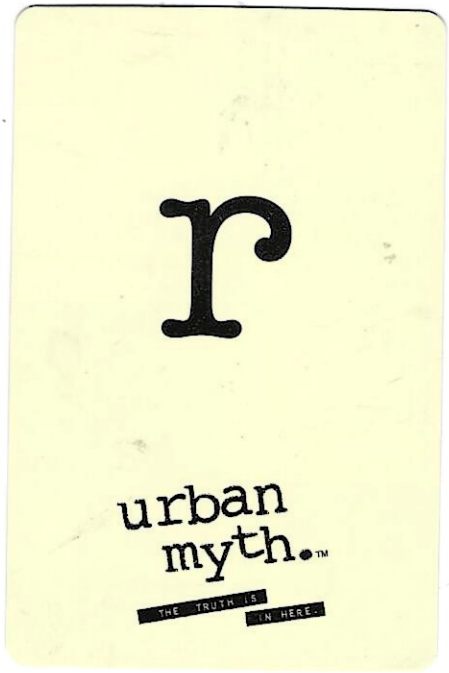
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Classics.

Mapmakers frequently put fake roads, lakes or cities on their maps. The fictitious features are known as "copyright traps."

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

250

Classics.

The original pledge to the flag was executed with the arm outstretched and the palm slightly up – not dissimilar to the salute used in Nazi Germany.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

249

Classics.

The height of the Eiffel Tower changes by as much as six inches depending on the temperature outside.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

252

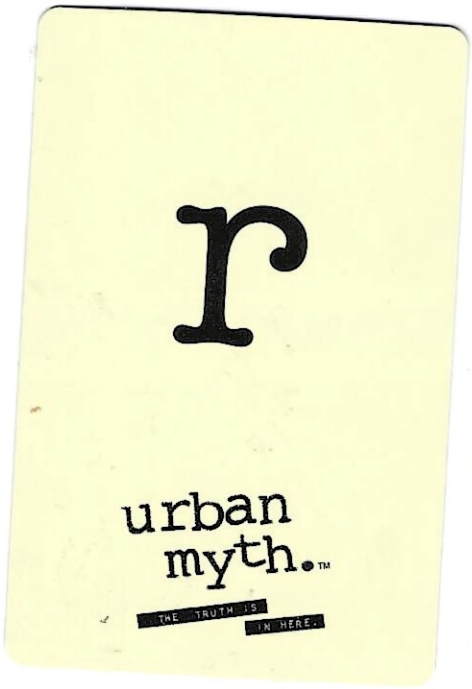
Classics.

The modern-day Suez Canal is built where two other canals have existed in years gone by: One dug 2,500 years ago and another dug 4,000 years ago.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

251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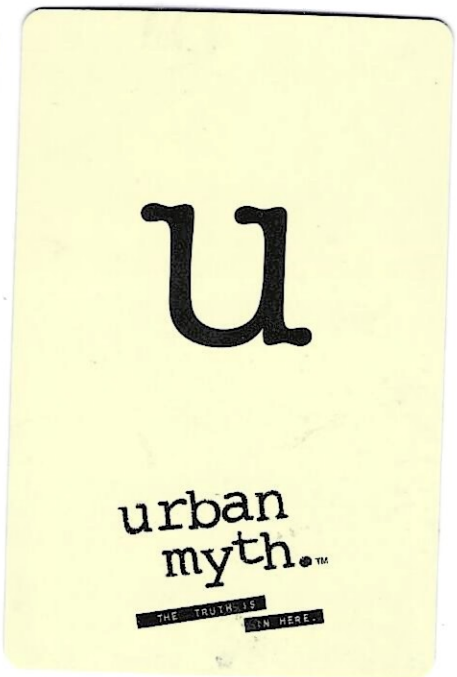
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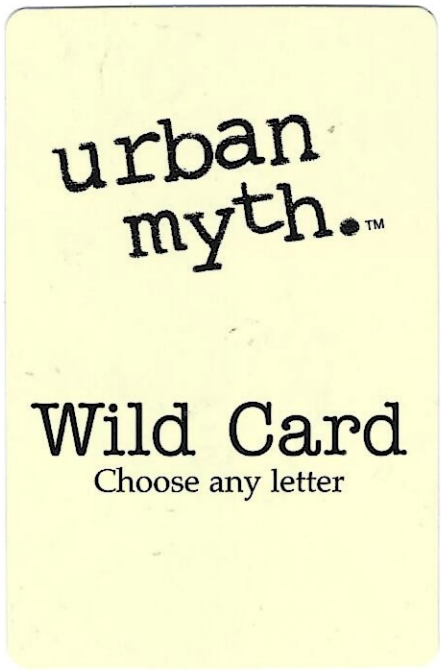
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Wild Card
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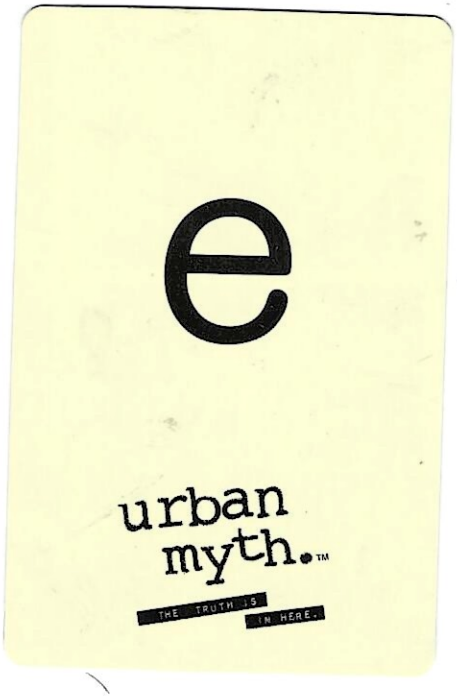
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Classics.

A Japanese man – hoping that his father would miraculously come back to life – kept the man's corpse in a coffin-sized freezer for 13 years before authorities intervened.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

268

Classics.

When the letters of Bill Gates III's name are converted to their ASCII equivalents and added up, they total 666 – the Biblical number of the beast.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

253

Classics.

The nursery rhyme Sing a Song of Sixpence was originally a coded message to notify potential crew recruits that a pirate ship was about to sail.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

270

Classics.

Passengers of Delta Flight 15 created a scholarship fund for residents of Gander, Newfoundland as a thank-you for their hospitality when their flight was grounded in the Canadian city on 9/11.

(True)

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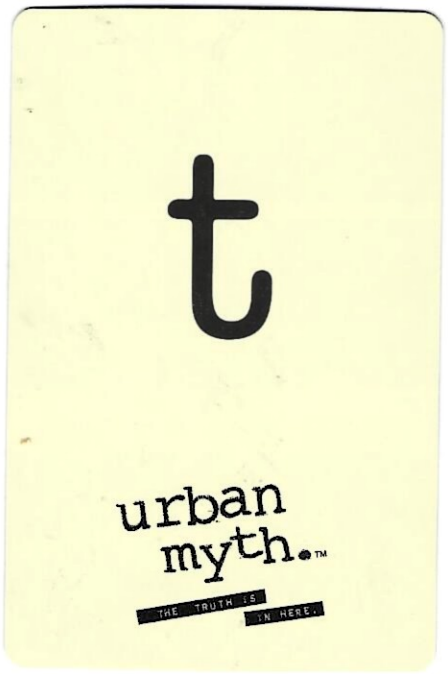
269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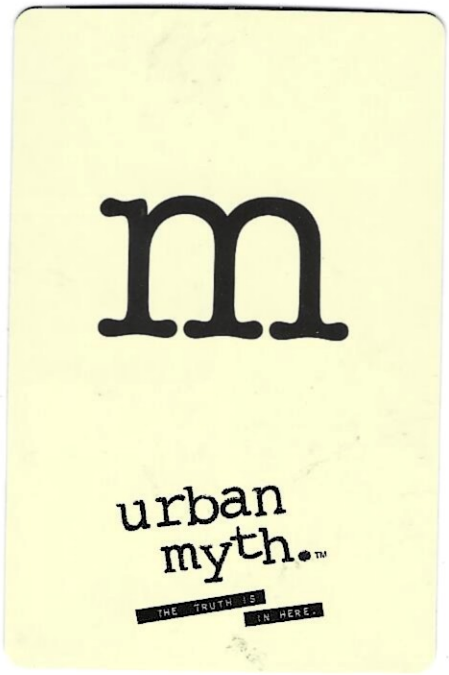
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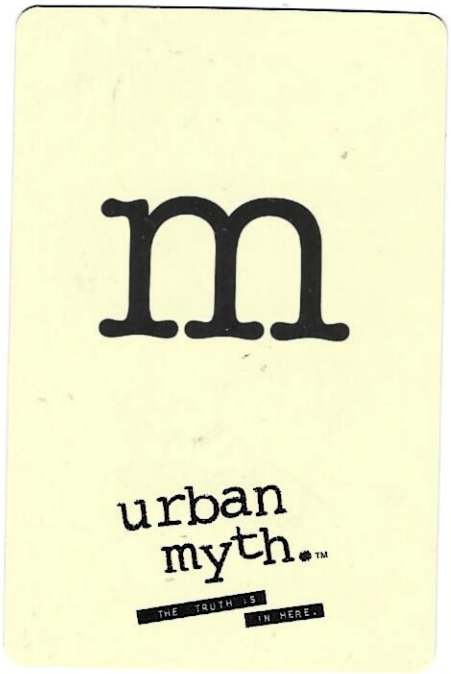
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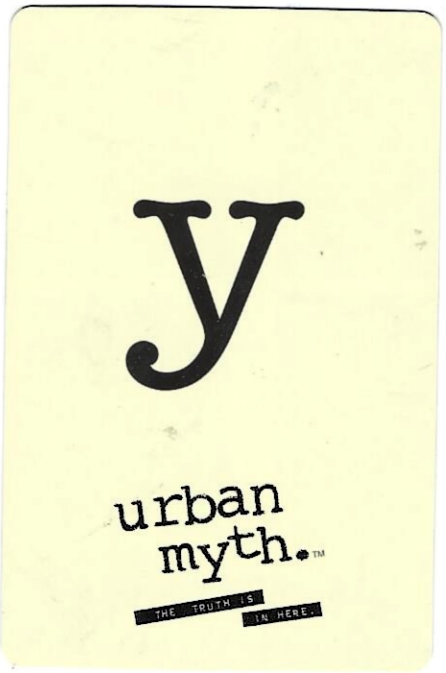
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Classics.

A Massachusetts girl was scalped when her hair became entangled in the machinery of a carousel ride at a local mall.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

272

Classics.

A tidal wave of molasses swept through Boston in 1919, killing 21 people and injuring another 150.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

271

Classics.

The sheriff of a Kansas town accidentally returned an erotic video of him and his wife having sex, copies of which spread through town like wildfire.

(True)

urban myth.™

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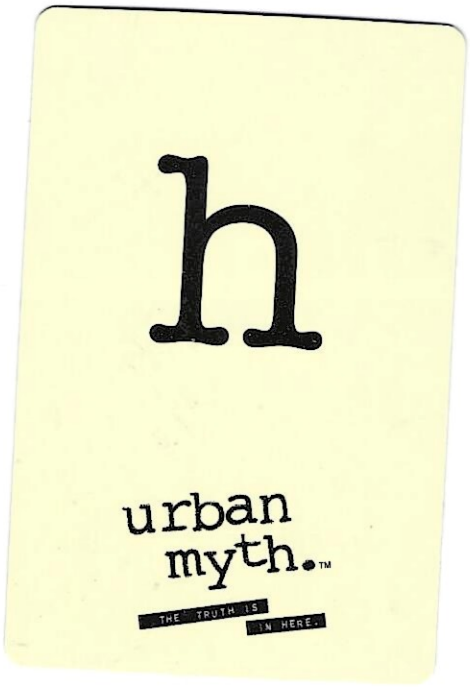
273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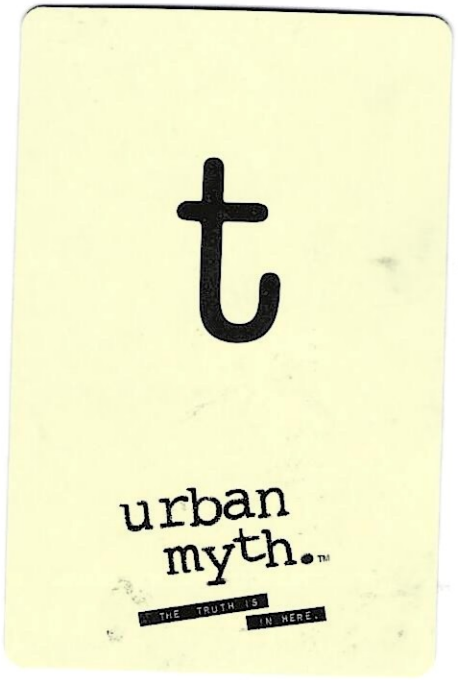
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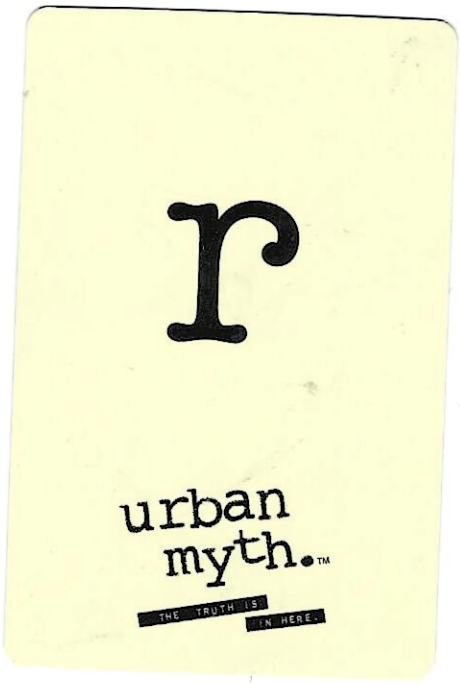
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Classics.

Robert Fulton named his steamboat the Clermont.

(Myth)

Euclid worked out all of the theorems in Euclidean geometry.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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Classics.

Henry Kissinger was the last student to graduate from Harvard University with perfect grades.

(Myth)

A man snuck on to one of the Titanic's lifeboats dressed as a woman.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

Classics.

A steel nail will rust away to nothing in less than four days if it is left to sit in Coke.

(Myth)

A tooth will dissolve in less than 48 hours if it is left to soak in Coke.

(Myth)

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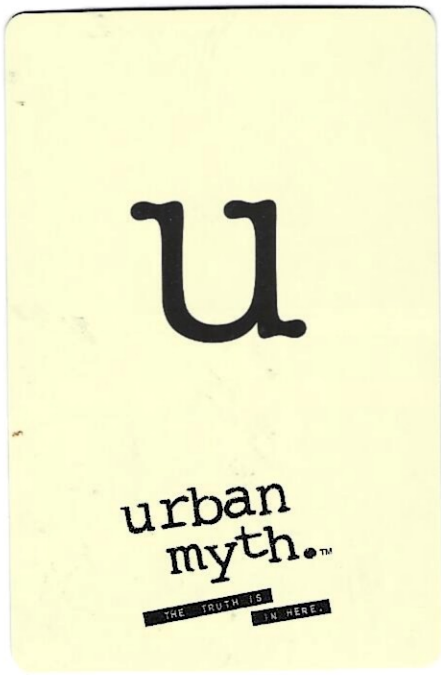
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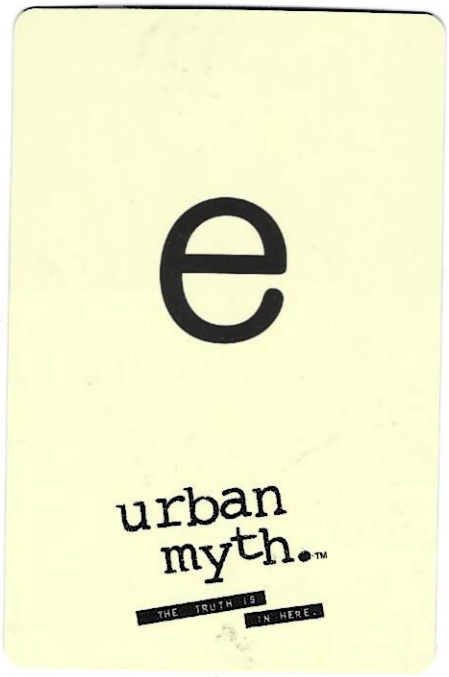
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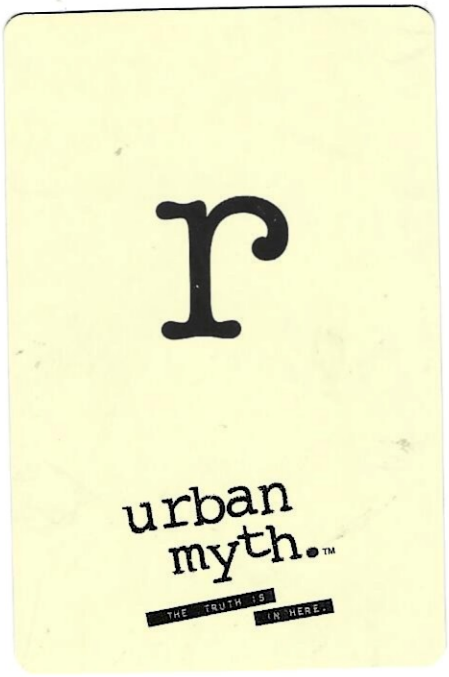
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Classics.

Columbus' three ships were registered as the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

(Myth)

Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

292

Classics.

George Washington tossed a dollar over the Ptomac.

(Myth)

The Slinky is sold on every continent in the world except Antarctica.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

291

Classics.

Bluebeard was a real pirate.

(Myth)

The Japanese fired the first shot at Pearl Harbor.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

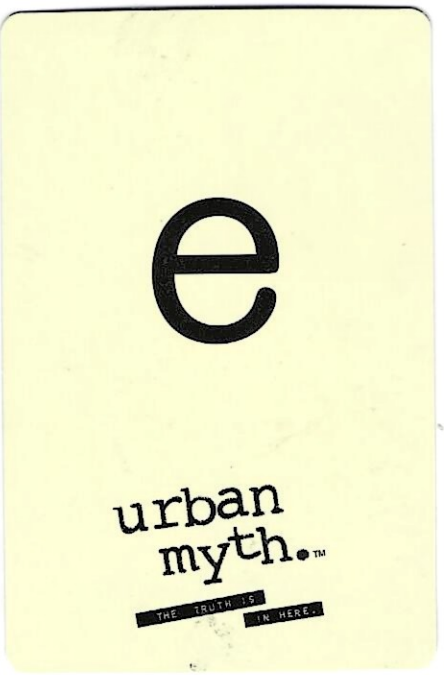
THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

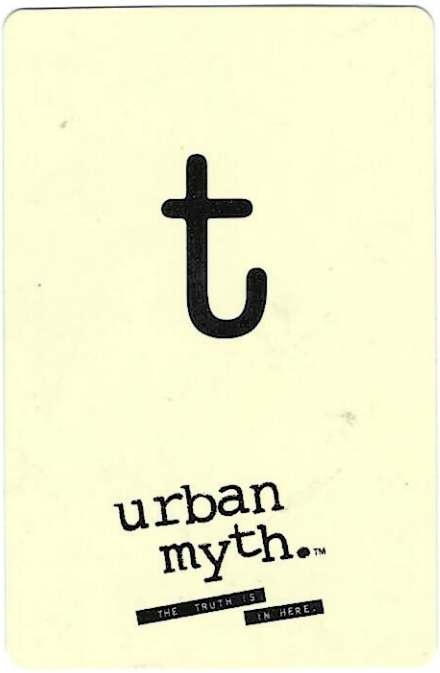
293

urban myth.™

Wild Card

Choose any letter





Crime.

A New Mexico man who drove home drunk after a night at his favorite bar woke up to find the body of an eight-year-old girl still embedded in the grill of his pick-up truck.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

308

Crime.

An unlicensed teenage girl who was driving her drunk boyfriend to a party collided with a second car, killing both the occupants – who turned out to be her parents.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

307

Crime.

Sponges containing the deadly Klingerman Virus have been mailed in envelopes marked "A gift for you from the Klingerman Foundation" to dozens of U.S. citizens.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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310

Crime.

A teenage couple spooked by radio reports of a deranged killer with a hook for a hand returned from the local 'lovers' lane' to find a bloody hook still hanging from the passenger door handle.

(Myth)

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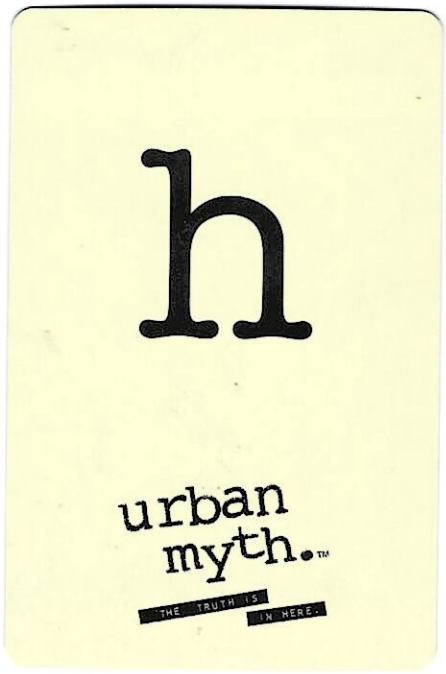
309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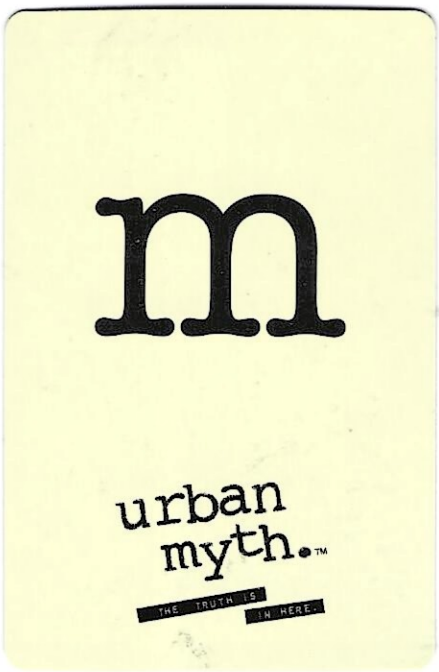
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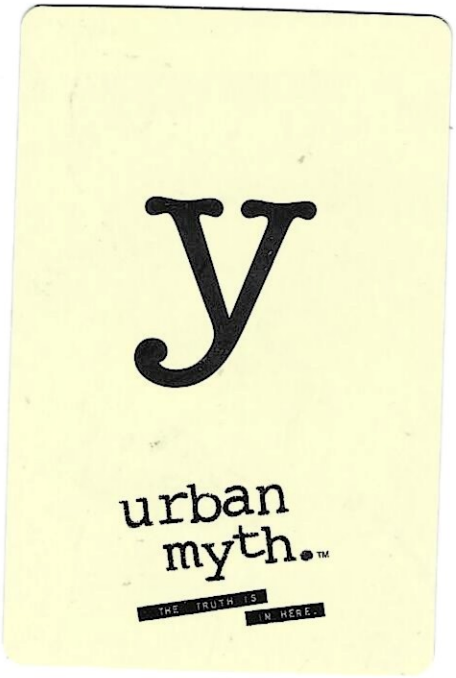
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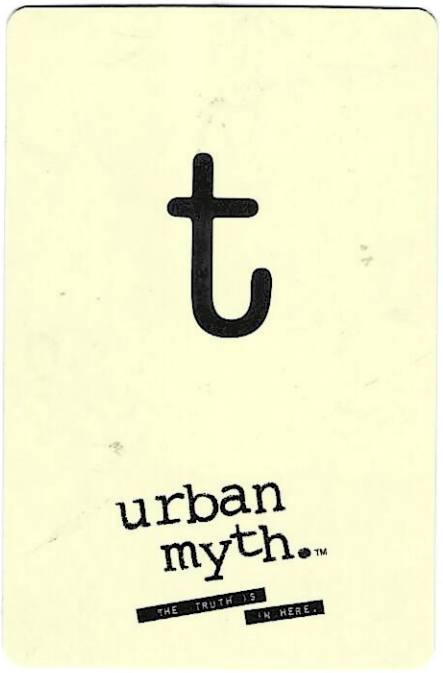
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Crime.

A 44-year-old Texas woman who wandered into a state police live-fire simulation was shot to death by state troopers who mistook her for a target.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

312

Crime.

In a 1987 bulletin, police warned people to use caution in mall parking lots after several women were slashed in the ankle and robbed by a man who's M.O. was to hide under their car.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

311

Crime.

CIA operatives in Afghanistan seized an internal Taliban memo written by Osama Bin Laden in which he complains that a box of Cheez-Its with his name on it has disappeared.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

314

Crime.

An Arkansas man who was bitten on the buttocks by his neighbor's beagle after repeatedly shooting the animal with a pellet gun was awarded $14,500 in damages.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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Crime.

A Sea World employee who was checking the harness on a 20-ton Killer Whale was killed when the crane operator inadvertently dropped the animal on his co-worker.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

329

Crime.

A 22-year-old New York waiter was drowned in Coca-Cola by a Russian mobster angry that his drink was removed from his table before he was finished with it.

(Myth)

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THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

328

Crime.

An eight-year-old girl who laced her father's coffee with rat poison when he sent her to her room was given a suspended sentence because the judge didn't think she understood the severity of her crime.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

331

Crime.

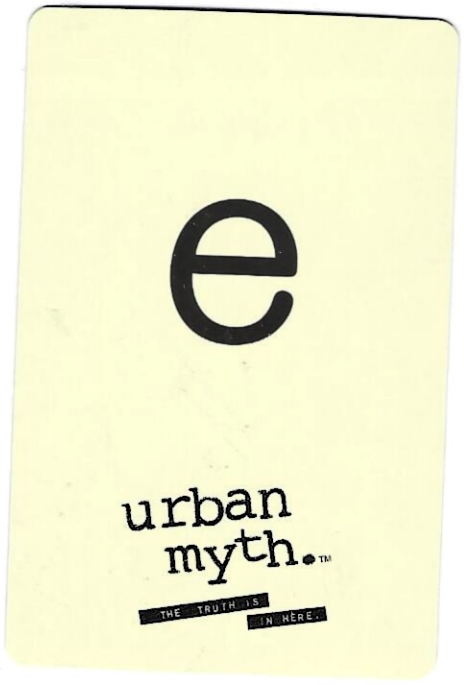
Three Canadians in New York City for the weekend were killed by falling furniture thrown by children playing on their 11th floor apartment balcony.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

330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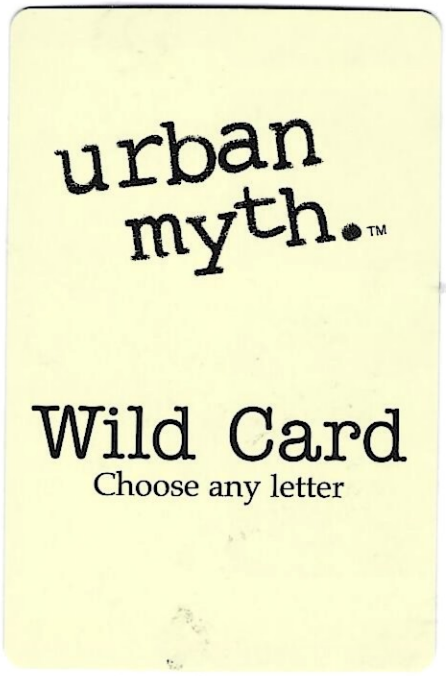
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Wild Card
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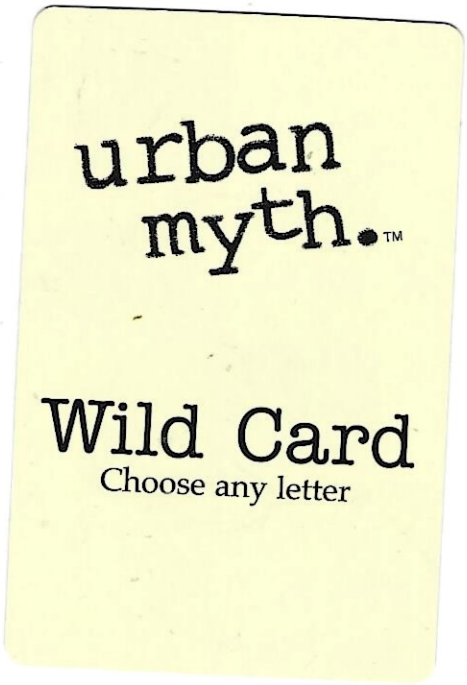
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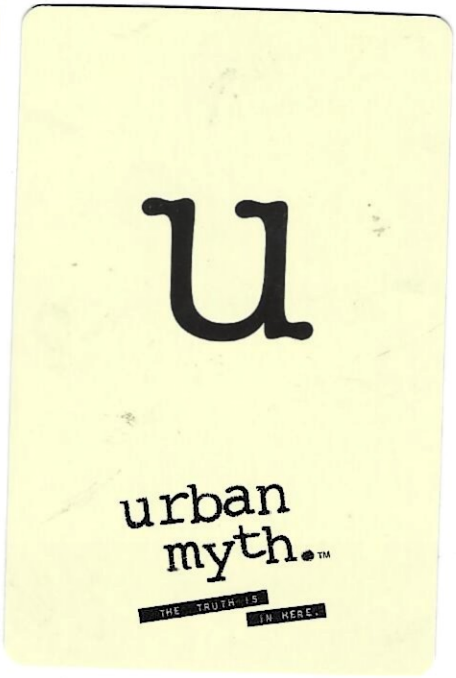
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Crime.

A New York millionaire who installed a new alarm system in his Porsche found his car turned around in its parking spot with a note on the windshield reading, "If we want it, we'll take it."

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

333

Crime.

A 19-year-old Los Angeles man whose hand was crushed as he tried to steal the hubcaps off a moving car was awarded $78,000 in damages.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

332

Crime.

Staff at a Pasadena hotel discovered the decomposing body of a woman hidden under the bed while investigating complaints of a foul odor in the room.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

349

Crime.

Staff at an Atlantic City hotel discovered the decomposing body of a 64-year-old man hidden under the bed while investigating complaints of a foul odor in the room.

(True)

urban myth.™

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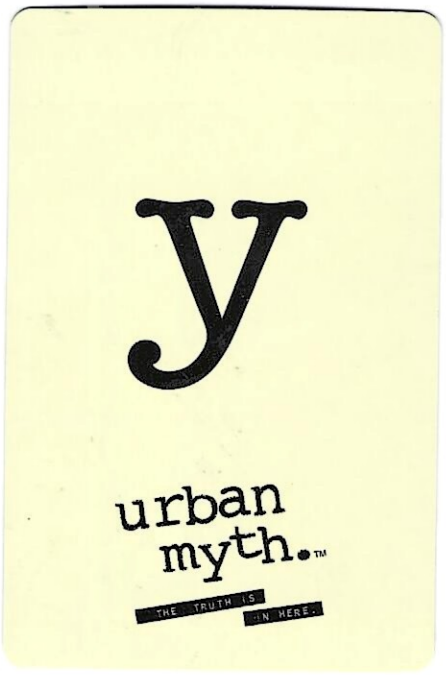
348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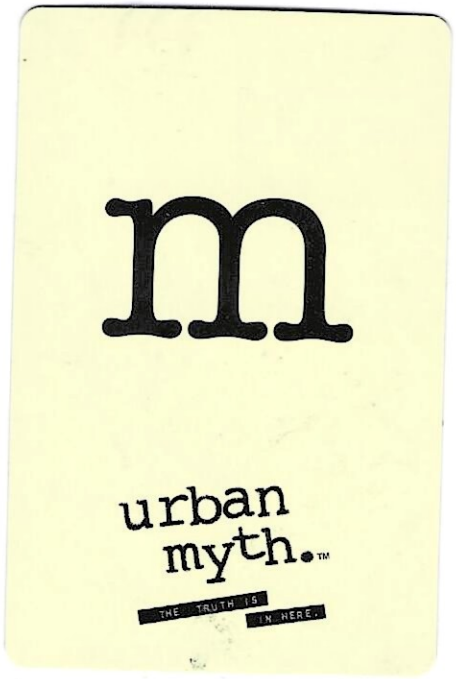
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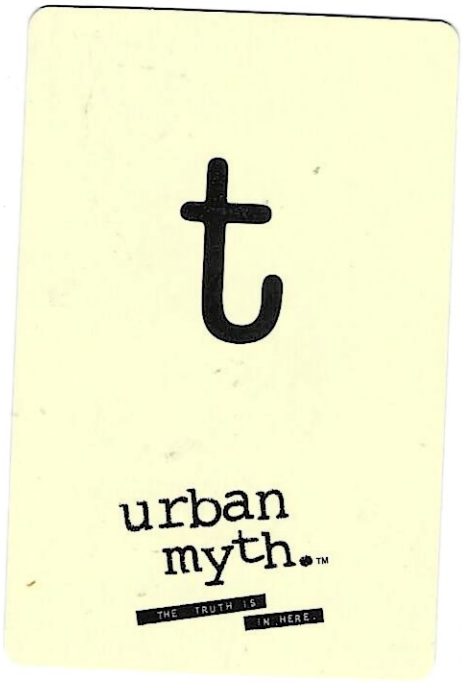
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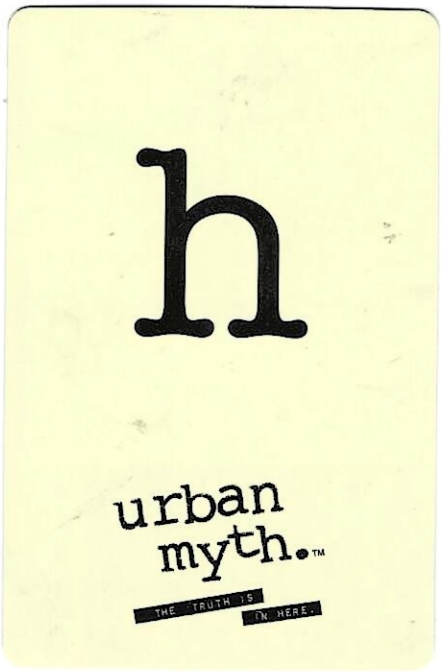
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Crime.

An American GI who cut off the head of his pregnant wife's lover left it on the woman's bedside table in the hospital where she was about to give birth.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

351

Crime.

Two British teens who tortured and murdered a three-year-old boy in 1993 have been granted anonymity for life by the courts and were released in 2001.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

350

Crime.

A pair of would-be thieves who stumbled across a corpse while burglarizing the home of an elderly British Columbia man were so horrified, they forgot they had committed a crime and notified police.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

353

Crime.

The preserved corpse of a train robber killed in 1911 became a side-show attraction at carnivals, amusement parks and fun houses until 1977 when authorities finally gave the body a decent burial.

(True)

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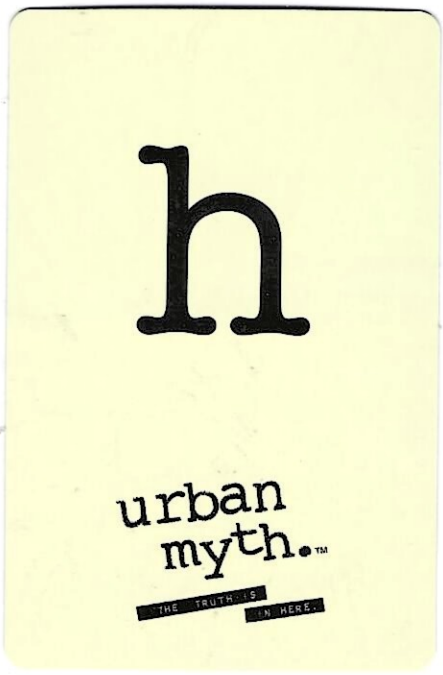
352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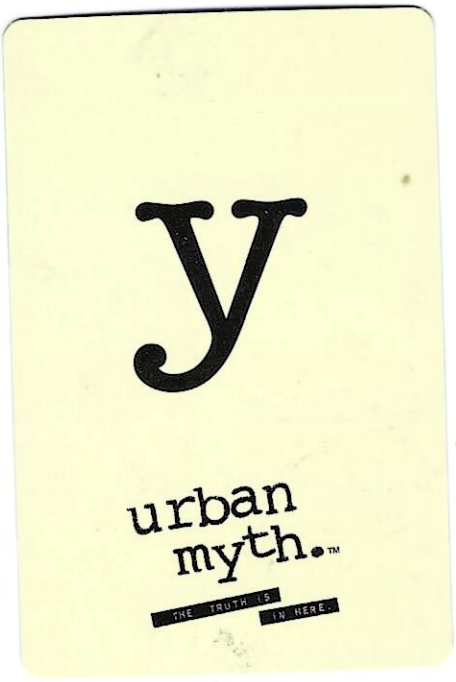
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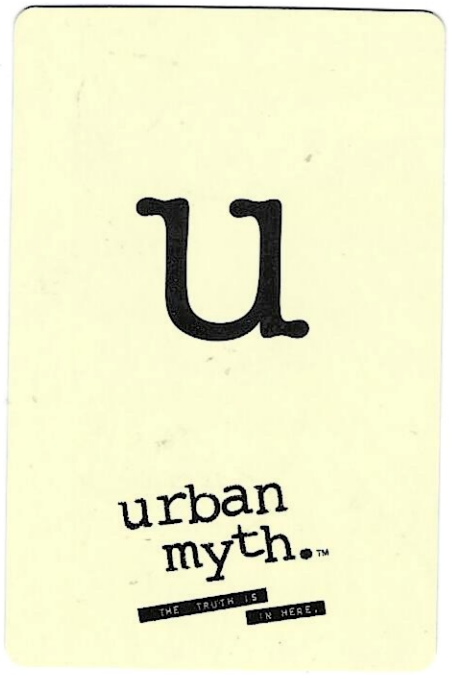
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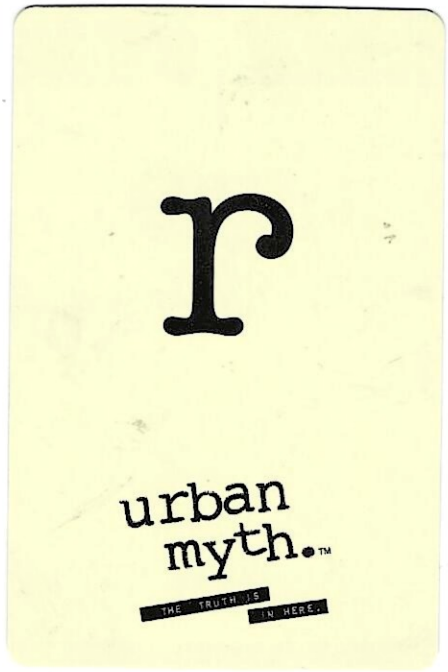
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Crime.

A former insurance salesman who inadvertently killed two strangers with cyanide-laced Sudafed was actually trying to murder his wife and make it look like she was the victim of a random crime.

(True)

urban myth.™
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369

Crime.

A woman who shot and killed her husband over a game of Bridge was not only acquitted of the crime, she managed to collect $300,000 in life insurance premiums.

(True)

urban myth.™
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368

Crime.

A Los Angeles man who became airborne by attaching weather balloons to his lawn chair was fined $4,000 by the Federal Aviation Administration for disrupting air traffic.

(Myth)

urban myth.™
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371

Crime.

Eleven days before the statute of limitations was to expire on a $3 million Brinks armored truck heist, one of the robbers sang like a canary and ratted out his co-conspirators.

(True)

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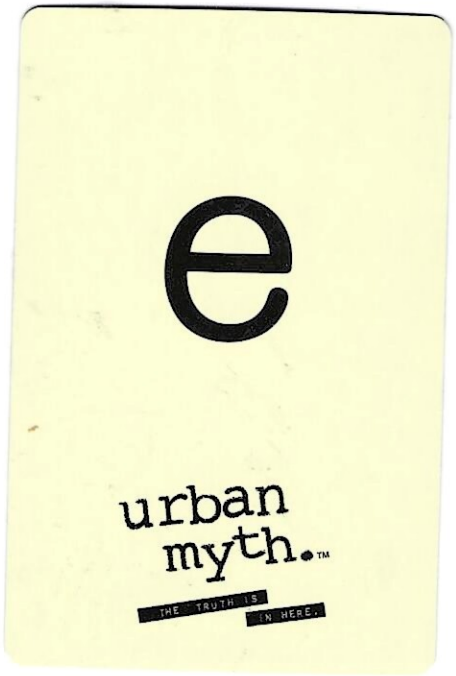
370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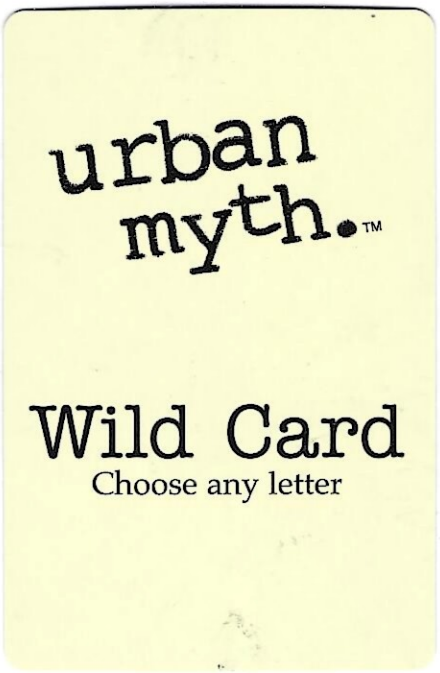
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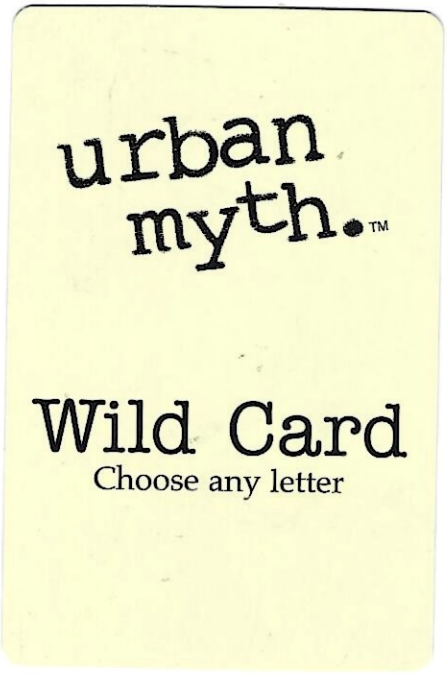
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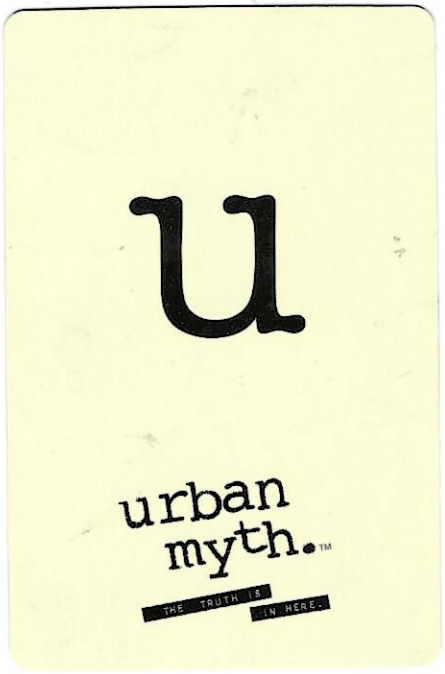
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Crime.

A 15-year-old boy was arrested, railroaded into court and sentenced to six years for crank-calling his neighbor in 1964.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

373

Crime.

President Abraham Lincoln wasn't John Wilkes Booth's only target. The assassin had planned on killing Grant too, but the general didn't attend the Ford Theatre that night.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

372

Crime.

An Oklahoma City rapist was sentenced to 30,000 years behind bars – the longest sentence ever given to a prisoner.

(True)

It costs more to run a death penalty through the U.S. justice system than it does to imprison the same convict for life.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

389

Crime.

A Tennessee court once sentenced a five-ton elephant to "hang by the neck until dead" for killing her keeper.

(True)

It is illegal to hunt whales in land-locked Oklahoma.

(True)

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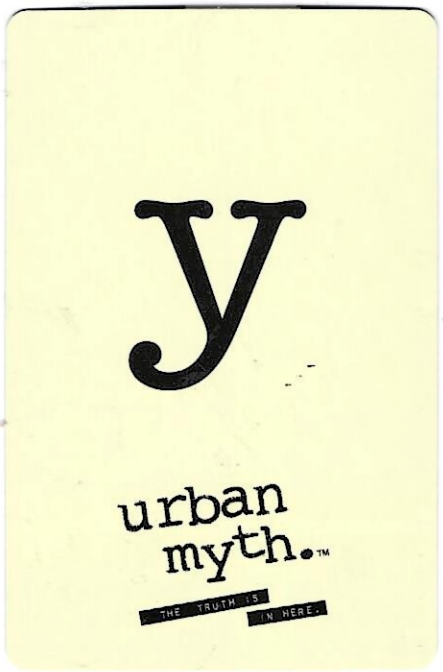
388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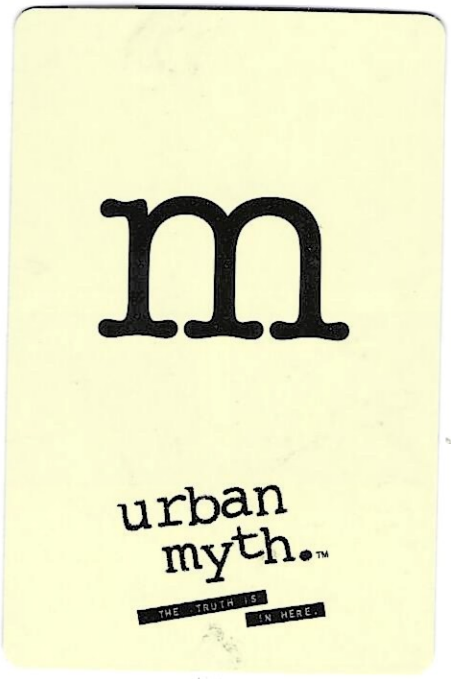
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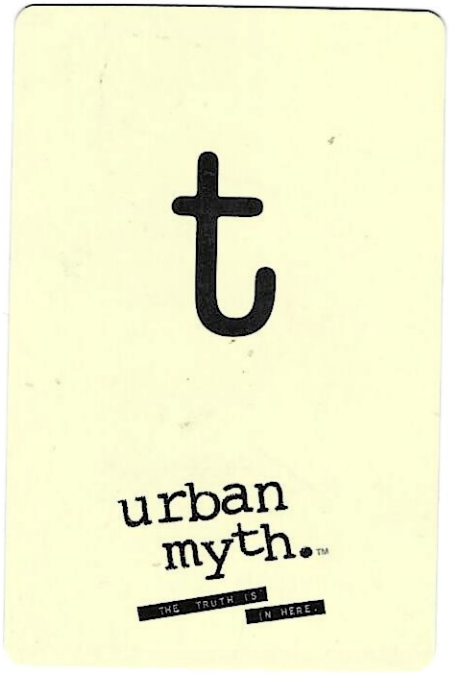
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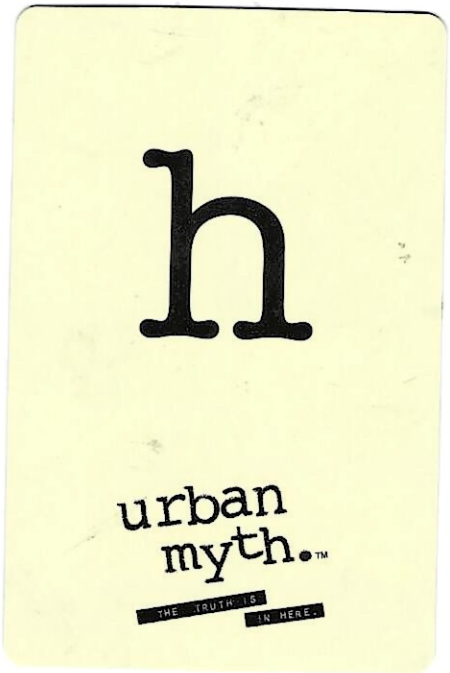
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Crime.

It is not illegal to remove the 'Do Not Remove' tags from your mattress.

(True)

Accident-prone stretches of the German Autobahn have a speed limit of 81 mph (130 km per hour).

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

391

Crime.

Although prostitution is legal in Denmark, it is illegal to "walk like a prostitute" in the country.

(True)

The State of Michigan once threatened to fine a local beaver colony $10,000 for failing to remove their dam.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

390

Crime.

Gangster John Dillinger once wrote a fan letter to Henry Ford raving about the Ford Motor Company's new V8 engine.

(Myth)

It is illegal to hunt camels in Arizona.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

393

Crime.

Americans spend $300 billion a year on litigation.

(True)

A psychic has predicted on national TV that a mass murder will take place this Halloween on a college campus in the American Midwest.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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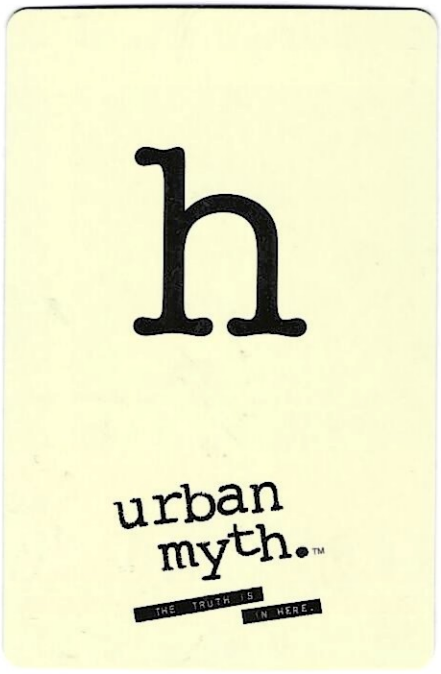
392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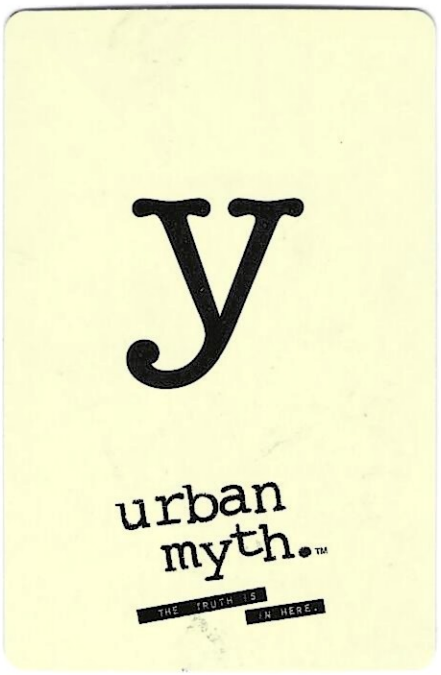
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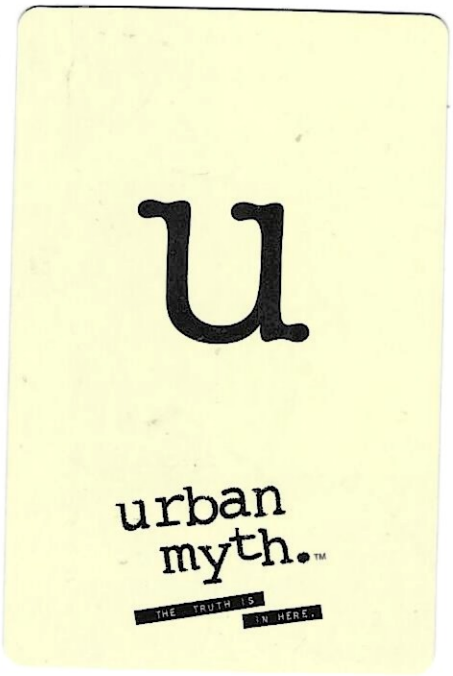
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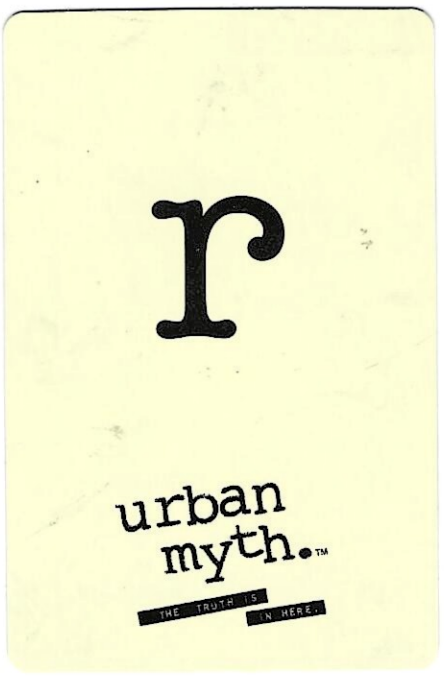
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Nature.

A 200-lb block of frozen urine mistakenly jettisoned from a passenger jet's lavatory holding tank over Boston crashed through the roof of a suburban townhouse, killing the family's dog.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

408

Nature.

Doctors who removed a live adult water snake from a Montana boy's intestines believe the reptile had been ingested as a baby several months prior and grew inside the child's stomach.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

407

Nature.

New York City has had alligators living in its sewer system for so long scientists believe the creatures have evolved into a distinct species of albino lizards.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

410

Nature.

New York City sanitation workers receive extra pay every time they venture into the sewer system on a service call because of alligator hazards in the underground labyrinth.

(Myth)

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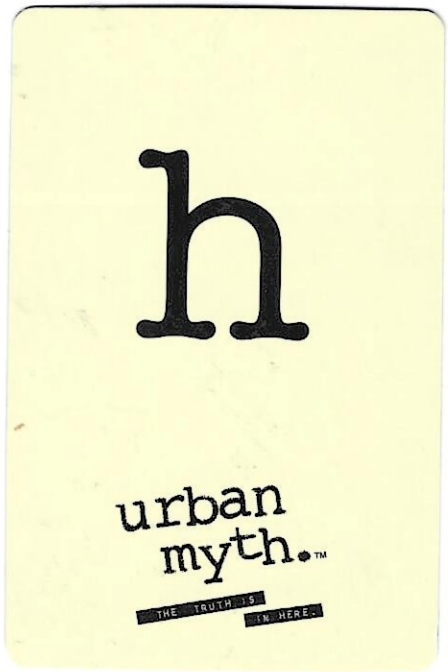
409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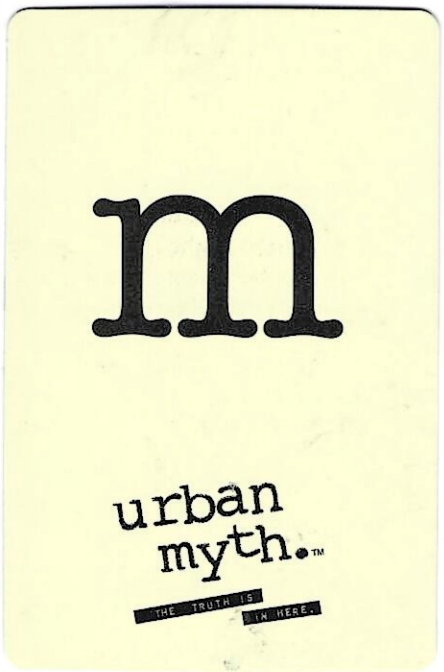
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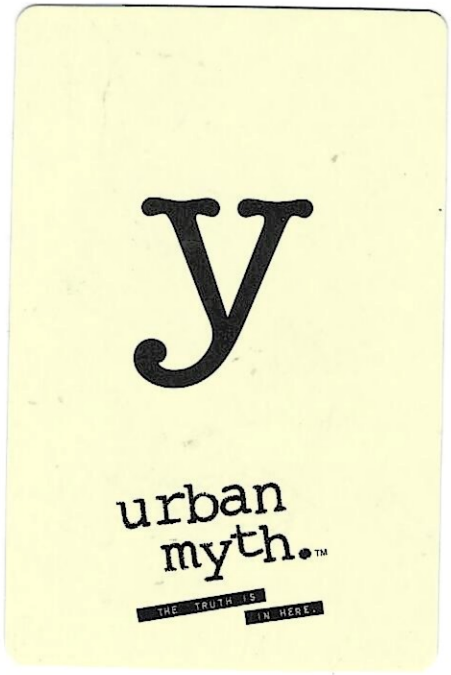
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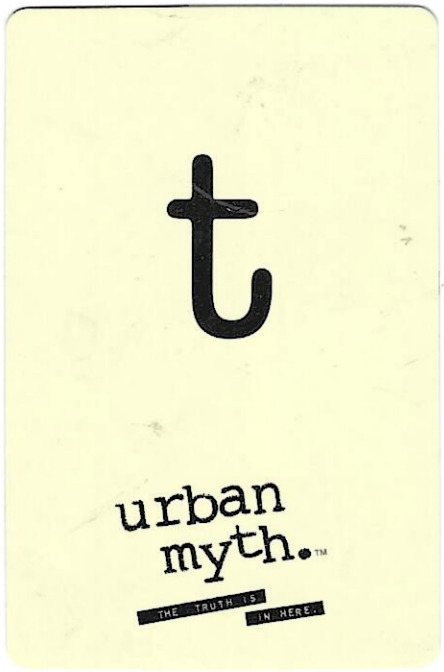
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Nature.

A Las Vegas vet who was asked to put a dog to sleep before the animal's owners embarked on a road trip is being sued for putting the dog down; apparently, the couple just wanted him to sleep peacefully for an hour or two.

(Myth)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

412

Nature.

An elderly Arkansas woman who cooked her toy poodle in a microwave after giving him a bath said she was trying to dry the animal off without scaring him. The dog was apparently afraid of hair dryers.

(Myth)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

411

Nature.

A thief who preyed on customers in the Mall of America suffered a heart attack when she realised the Dillard's bag she had stolen contained a dead cat.

(Myth)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

414

Nature.

An opportunistic bald eagle snatched a pet poodle from a gas station parking lot in Valdez, Alaska, carrying off its prize while the dog's owners shrieked in horror.

(Myth)

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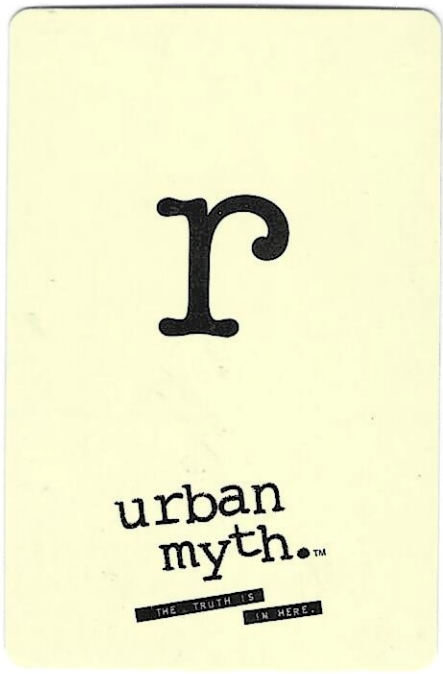
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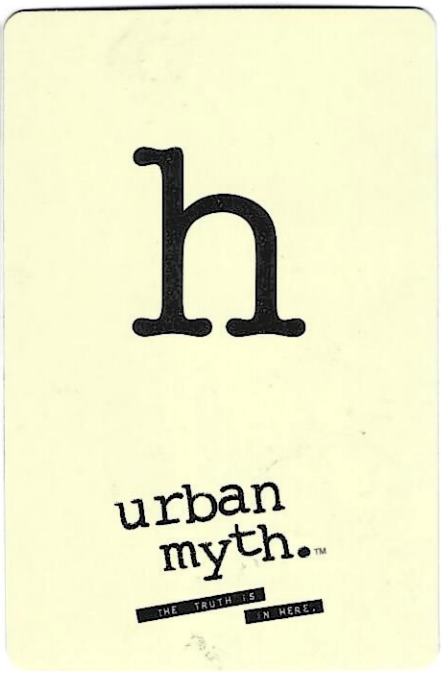
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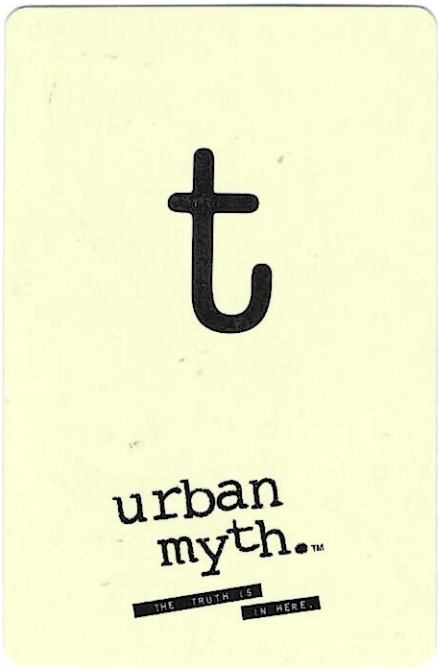
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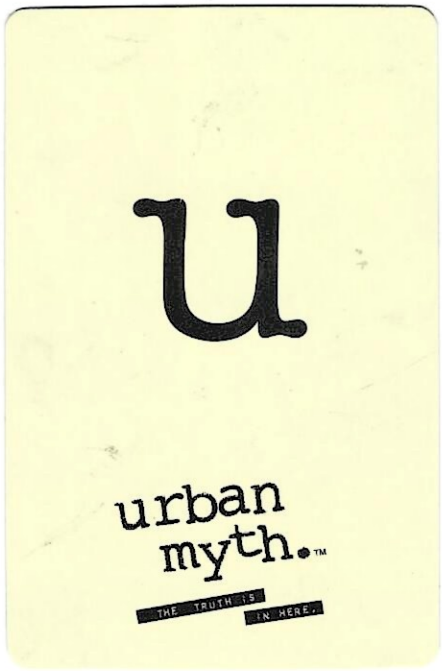
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Nature.

An Arizona woman who brought a cactus home from the desert got more than she bargained for; within days the plant burst open, spewing deadly scorpions all over her living room.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

429

Nature.

An Arizona woman who brought a cactus home from the desert got more than she bargained for; within days the plant burst open, spewing deadly tarantulas all over her living room.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

428

Nature.

The colour red angers bulls and makes them charge. That's why matadors the world over use a red cape when bullfighting.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

431

Nature.

Health officials recalled thousands of software packages in 1992 after a woman's computer became infested with tarantulas that had arrived with the discs.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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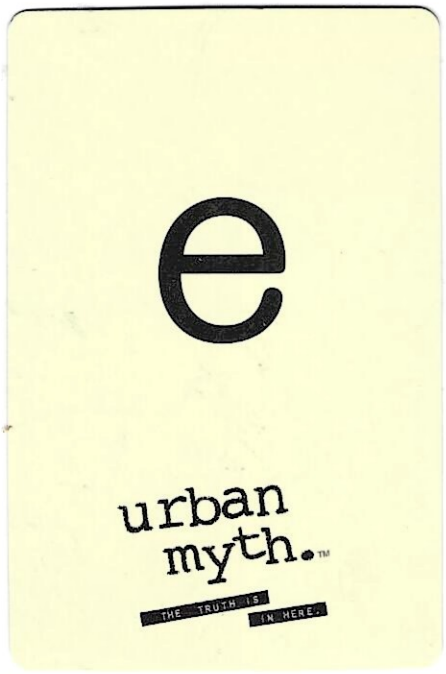
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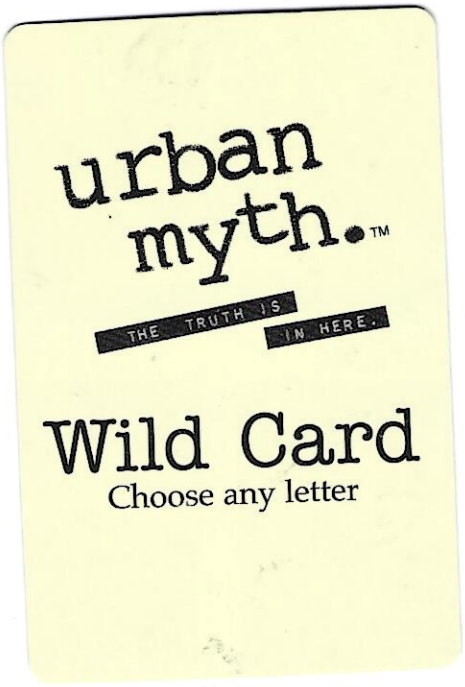
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Wild Card
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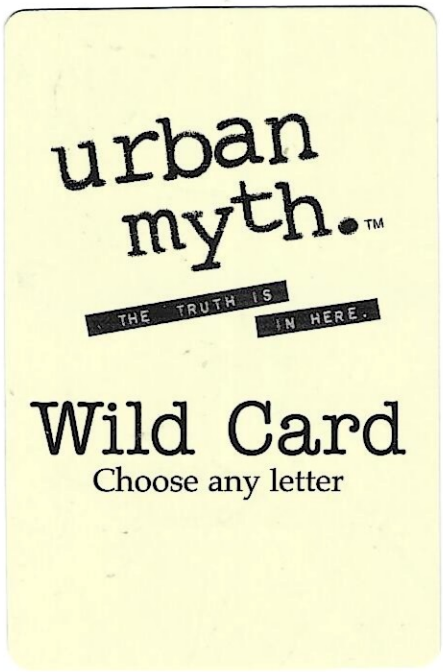
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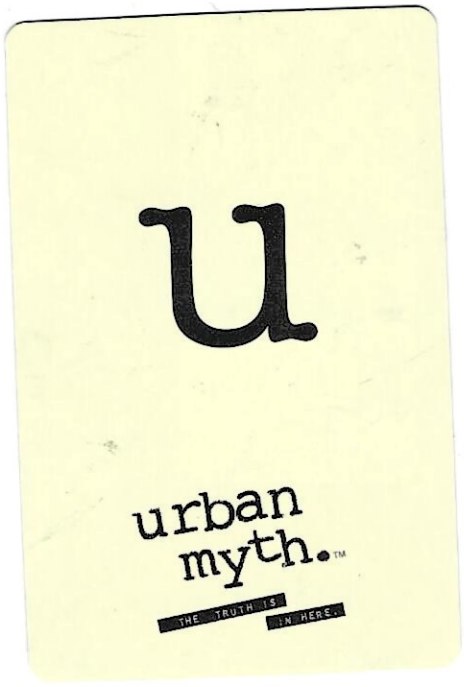
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Nature.

Two of the seals saved from the Exxon Valdez oil spill were eaten by killer whales within minutes of their release back into the wild.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

433

Nature.

A drunk using gasoline to flush a racoon out of a sewer pipe turned himself into a human cannonball when he climbed in after the animal and lit a match.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

432

Nature.

You can tell the temperature by adding 32 to the number of times a cricket chirps in 14 seconds.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

449

Nature.

While shooting Disney's White Wilderness, a film crew induced a herd of lemmings into jumping off a cliff.

(True)

urban myth.™

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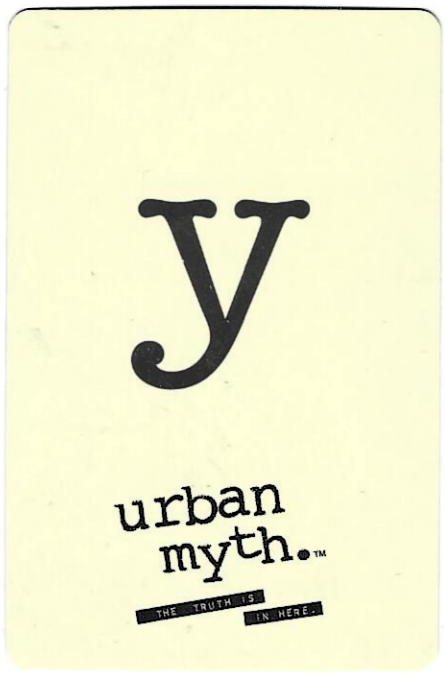
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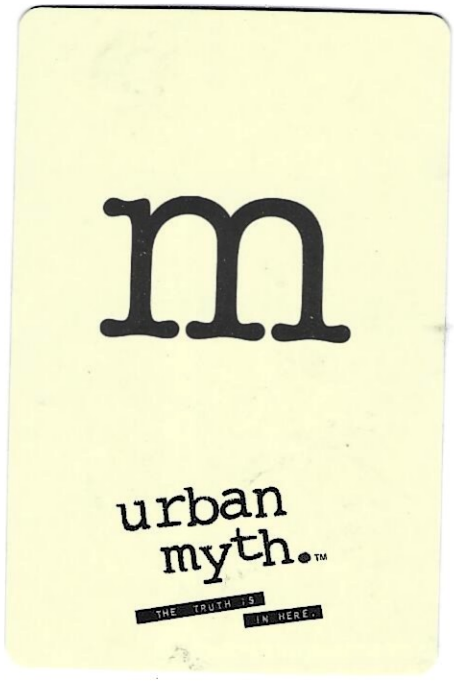
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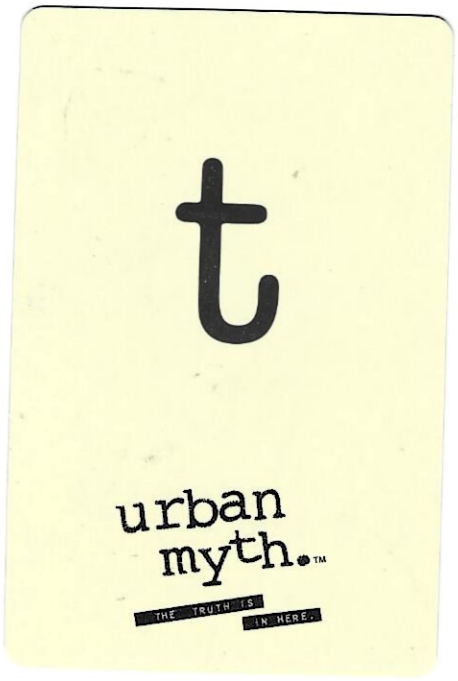
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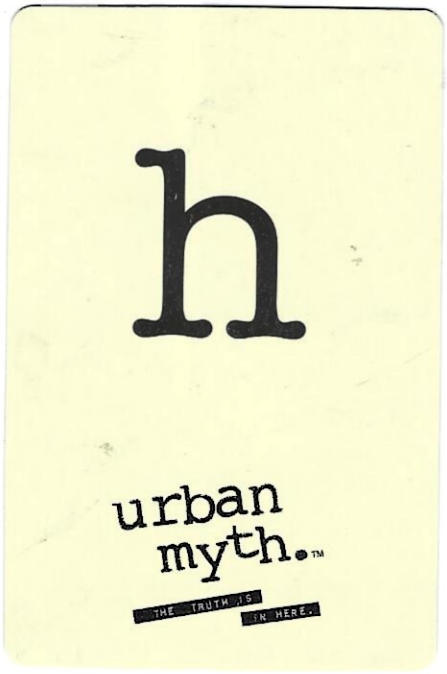
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Nature.

Balto the Wonder Dog - one of Johnny Carson's favourite punch lines - was a real dog.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

452

Nature.

The term 'Seeing Eye Dog' is in fact the trademark of one company that trains guide dogs for the blind.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

451

Nature.

Dogs sweat by panting.

(Myth)

Roosters crow at the sun.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

468

Nature.

Cobras can't hear; they follow the motion of the snake charmer's horn, not the sound.

(True)

urban myth.™

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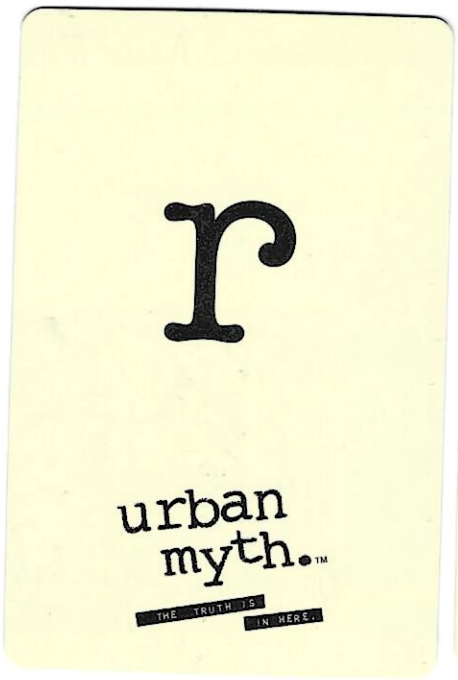
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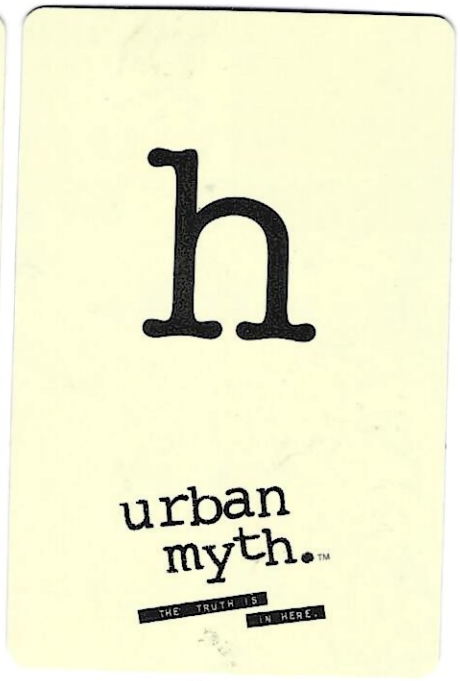
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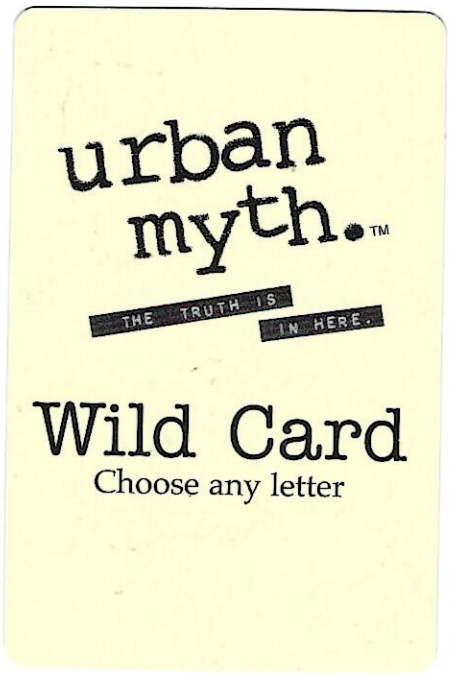
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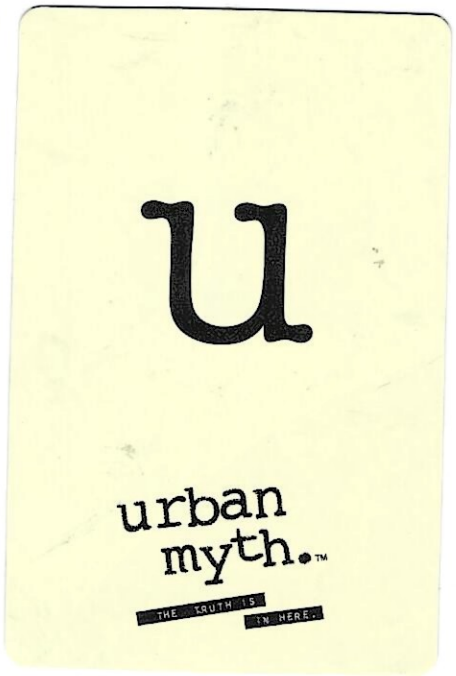
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IN HERE.

Nature.

Not all piranha are man-eaters; only four of the 18 known species are.

(True)

Deer do not eat hay.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

470

Nature.

Toads can live for years without food or water.

(Myth)

The Daddy Longlegs is the world's most poisonous spider.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

469

Nature.

Lightning starts more forest fires than people do.

(True)

Killer Whales aren't whales; they're dolphins.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

472

Nature.

Deer like to eat poison ivy.

(True)

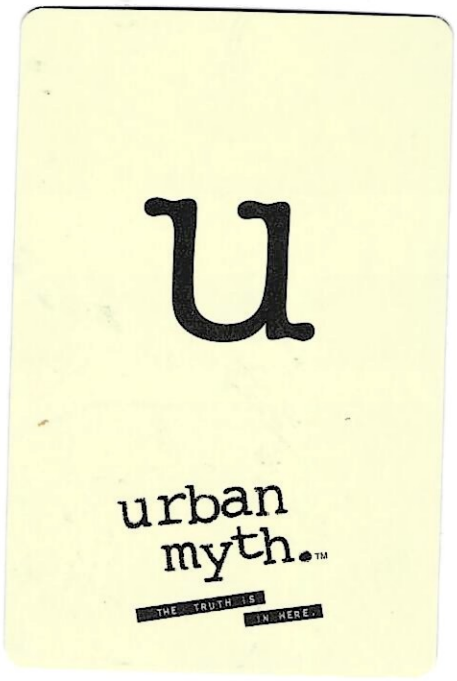
Male mosquitoes don't bite.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

471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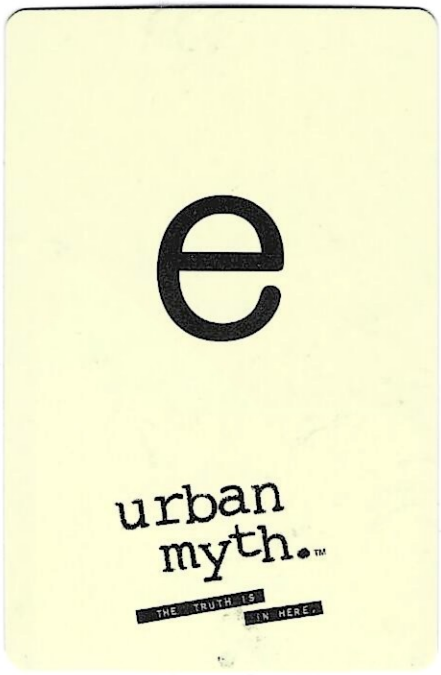
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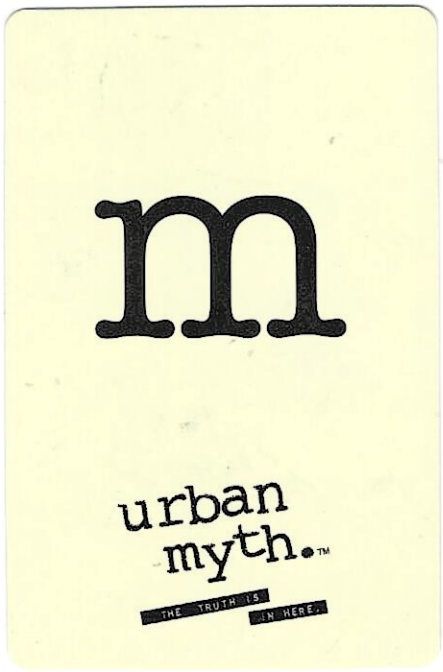
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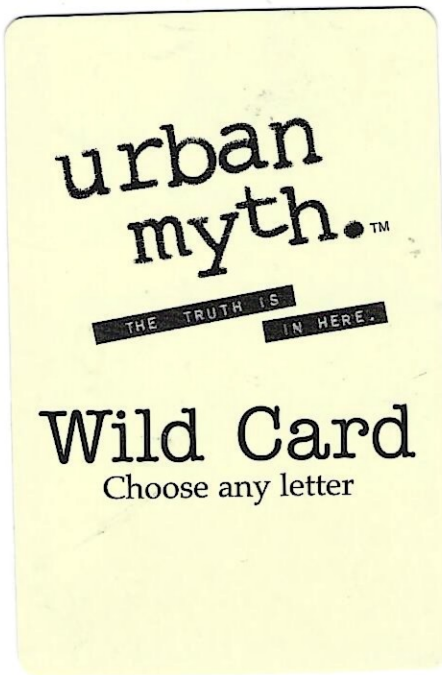
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Wild Card
Choose any letter

Nature.

One horsepower is equal to the strength of one horse.

(Myth)

Despite their size, gorillas are gentle vegetarians who choose flight over fight.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

488

Nature.

Lightning travels from the ground up, not from the sky down.

(True)

St. Bernard dogs are raised for food in China.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

473

Nature.

The artichoke is a vegetable.

(Myth)

Elephant herds post sentries who raise their trunks at the first sign of danger.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

490

Nature.

Little Miss Muffet is the fictional creation of a nursery rhyme.

(Myth)

Greyhounds see better than any other breed of dog.

(True)

urban myth.™

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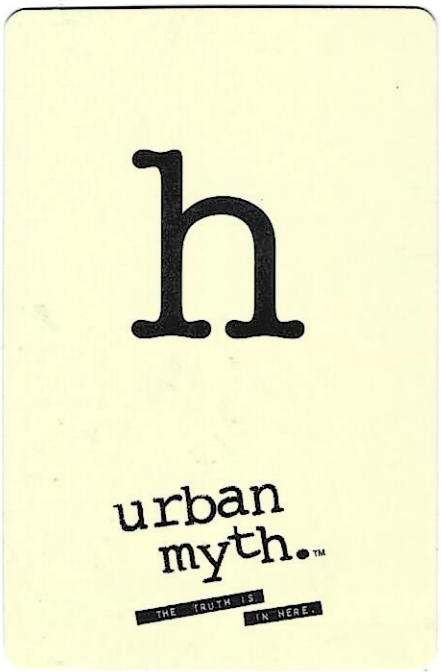
489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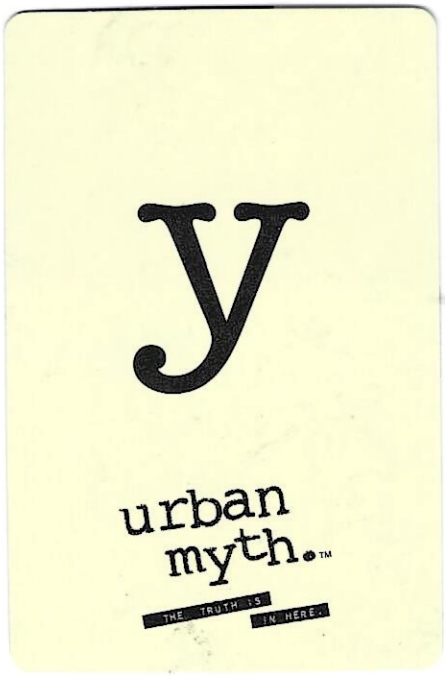
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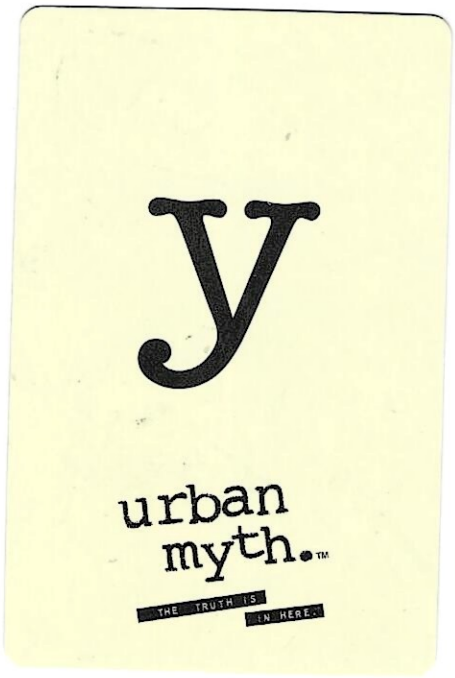
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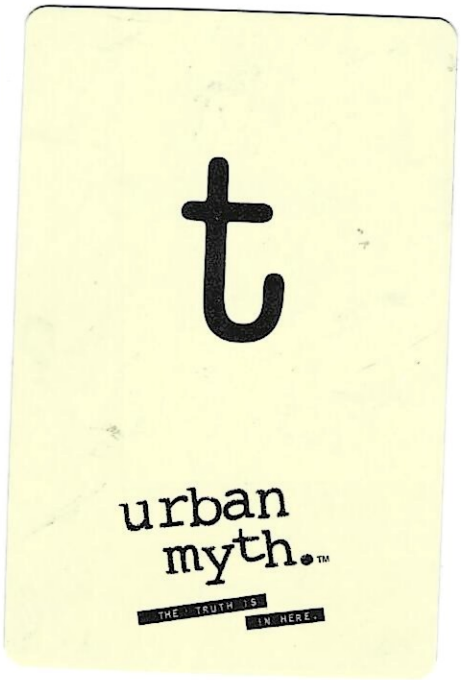
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Nature.

A Chicago woman who adopted a dog while on a Mexican holiday was told by her vet her new "pet" was in fact a species of large rat.

(Myth)

Lightning is good for crops.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

Nature.

Crop circles in England have been identified as man-made.

(True)

When lions and tigers mate, their offspring are called tigons and ligers.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

Nature.

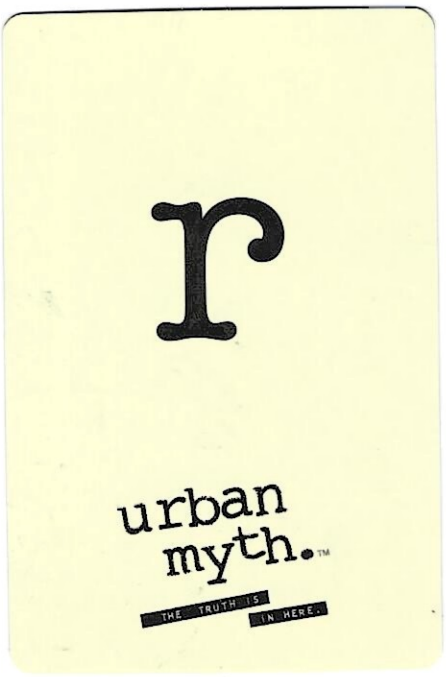
Cocker Spaniels were originally bred in Spain.

(Myth)

Hummingbirds don't bathe; they shower while in flight.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.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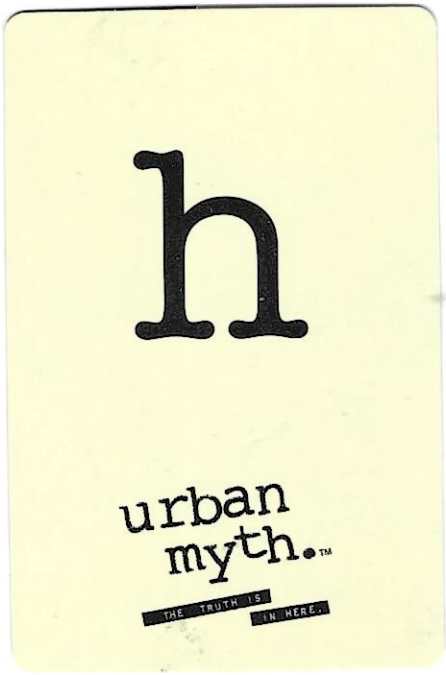
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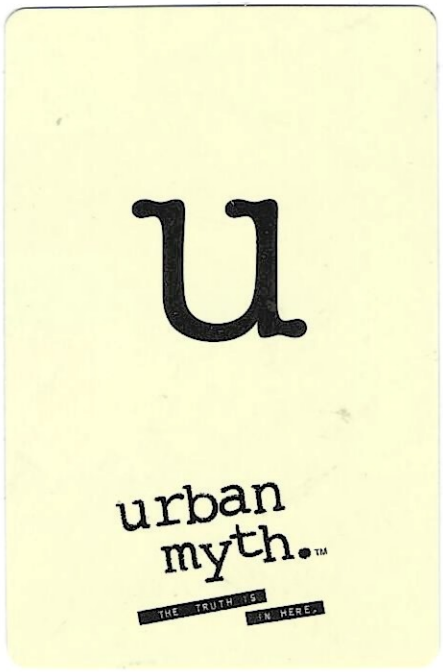
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Health.

A New Orleans woman was diagnosed HIV-positive after pricking her leg on a syringe tip intentionally broken off in the cushion of a movie theatre seat.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

508

Health.

A Dallas woman was diagnosed HIV-positive after pricking her hand on a syringe tip intentionally broken off and jammed into the handle of a gas pump.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

507

Health.

A tot who was bitten by a rattlesnake while playing in a fast food restaurant's ball pit died before his mother realized what had happened.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

510

Health.

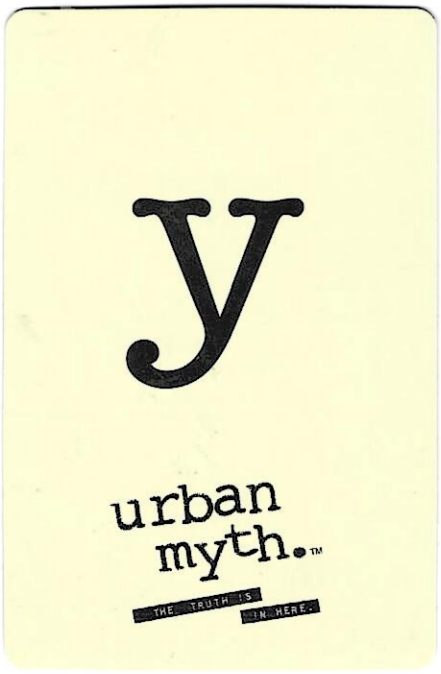
A Texas toddler who was pricked by a syringe while playing in a fast food restaurant's ball pit, received a lethal dose of heroin and died.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

509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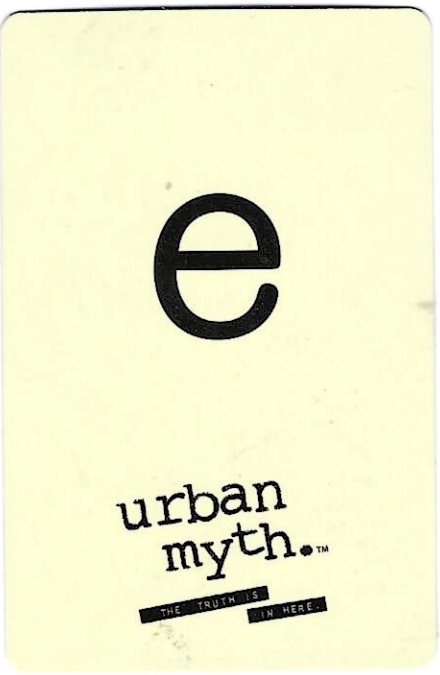
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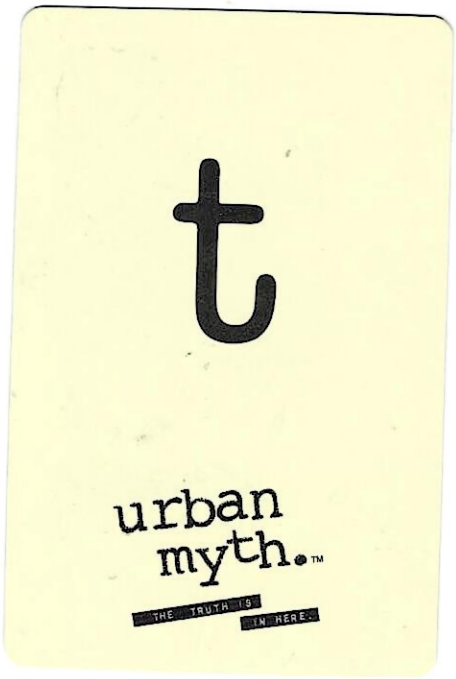
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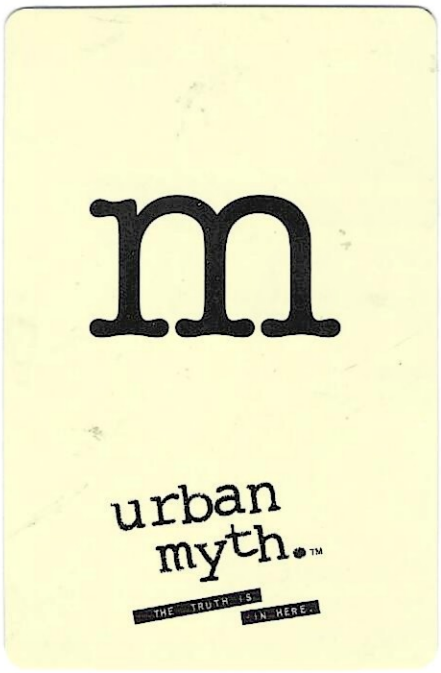
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Health.

A Seattle man who was enticed into joining a beautiful stranger in her hotel room awoke the next morning to the message, "Welcome to the AIDS club," scrawled on the bathroom mirror.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

512

Health.

A Toronto woman was diagnosed HIV-positive after a stranger intentionally stabbed her with a syringe in a crowded nightclub.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

511

Health.

A wedding ring dangled from a strand of hair in front of a pregnant woman's womb can tell whether the unborn infant is a boy or a girl.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

514

Health.

Doctors performing an autopsy on a barber whose cause of death had proven difficult to determine found a massive hairball in his oesophagus, the result of years of breathing in his clients' hair.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

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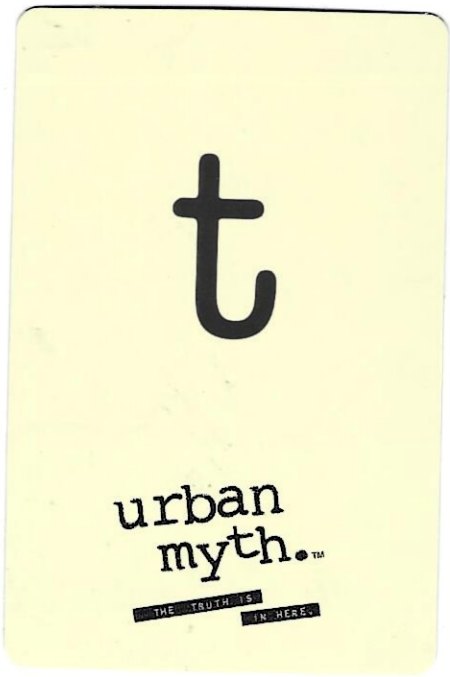
513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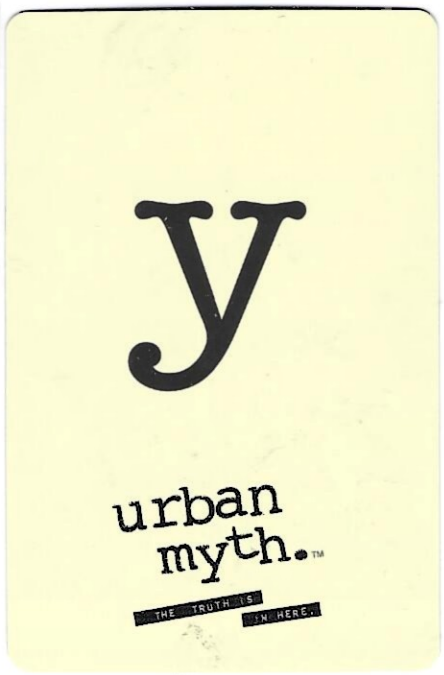
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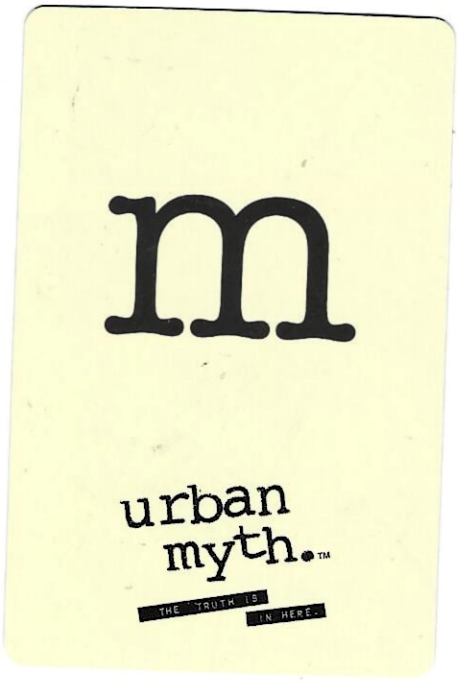
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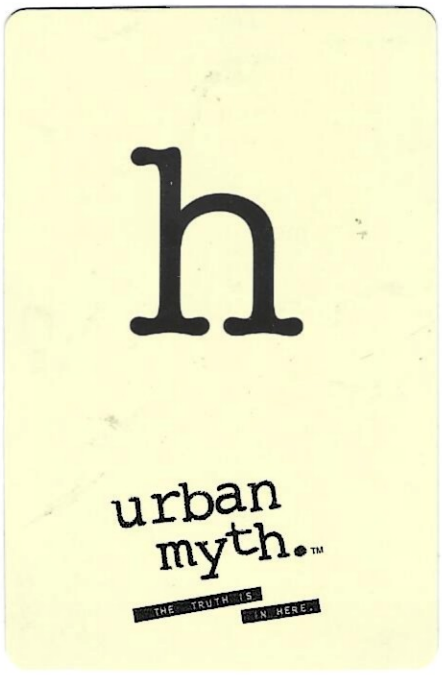
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Health.

One out of four patients who are told they have high blood pressure by their doctor experience a return to normal blood pressure once they're out of the office.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

528

Health.

A 40-year-old factory worker who lost a testicle while masturbating near heavy machinery stapled the wound closed and kept working to avoid embarrassment.

(Myth)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

527

Health.

A 200-year-old Connecticut law prohibited smokers from lighting up anywhere except in their own homes.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

530

Health.

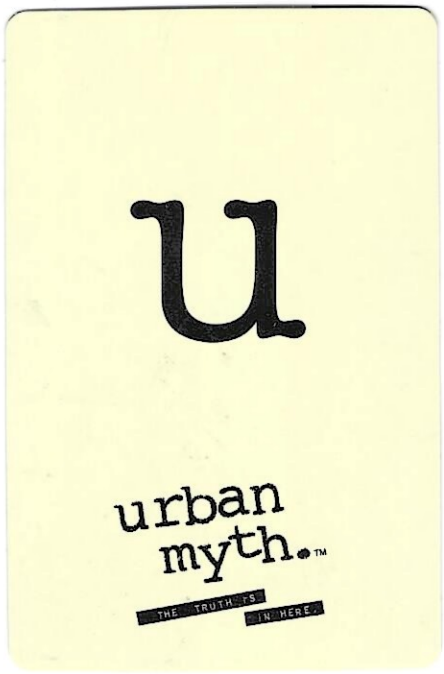
Einstein's brain was removed from his corpse and kept by the doctor who performed the autopsy. It now sits in a jar in the doctor's Witchita home.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

529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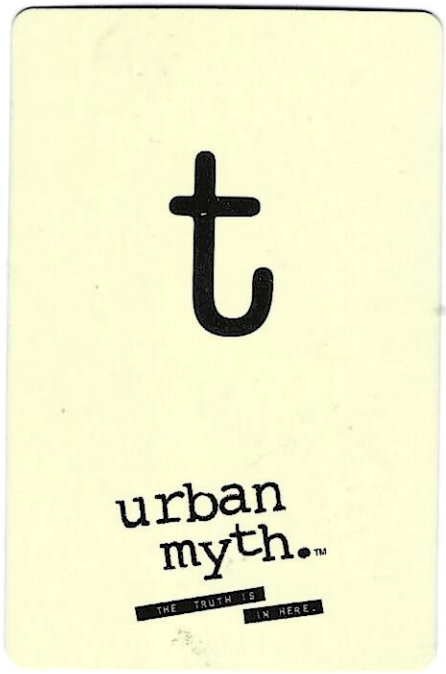
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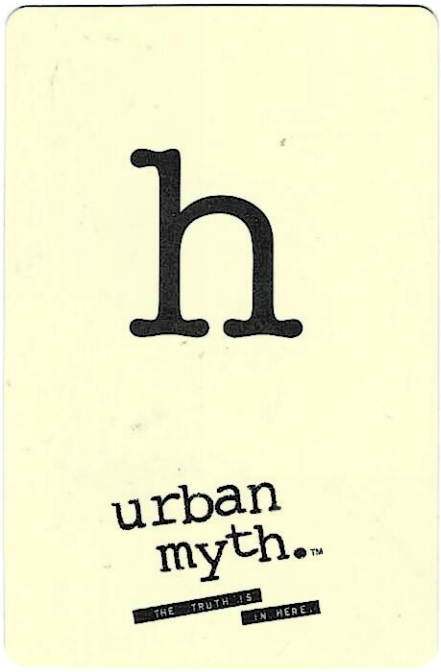
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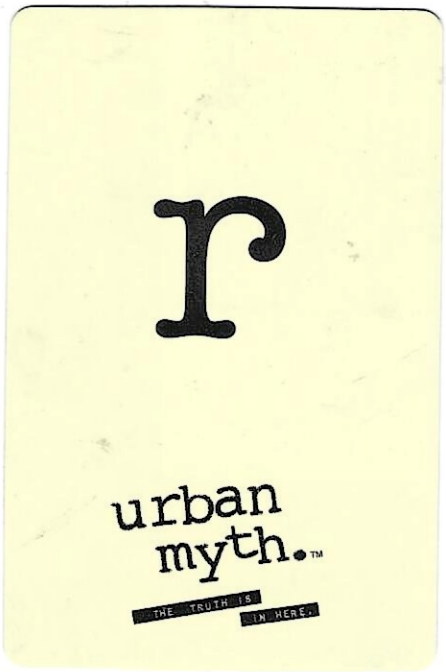
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Health.

A medical student who in 1788 waved a dismembered corpse's arm at a little boy set off New York City's Doctors' Riots that killed eight and left dozens injured.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

532

Health.

The inferior parietal region of Einstein's brain – the part generally associated with mathematics - was found to be 15% larger than the average human's.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

531

Health.

Swimming after a meal can lead to cramps and drowning.

(Myth)

Filtered cigarettes don't pose as significant a health risk as unfiltered cigarettes.

(Myth)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

548

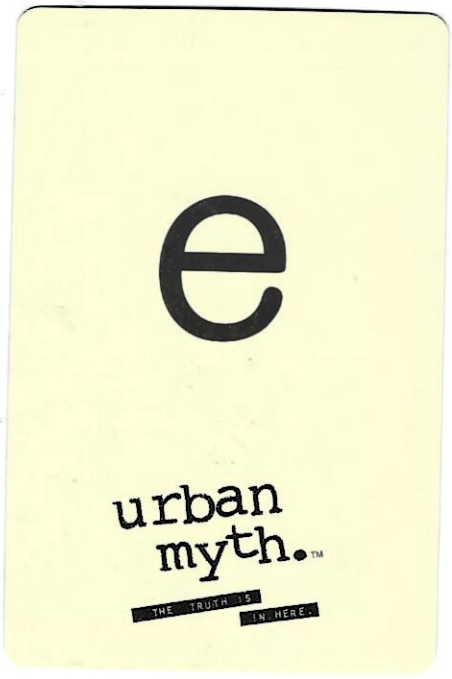
Health.

Medical schools in Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont have all practised grave robbing to provide cadavers for their students.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

533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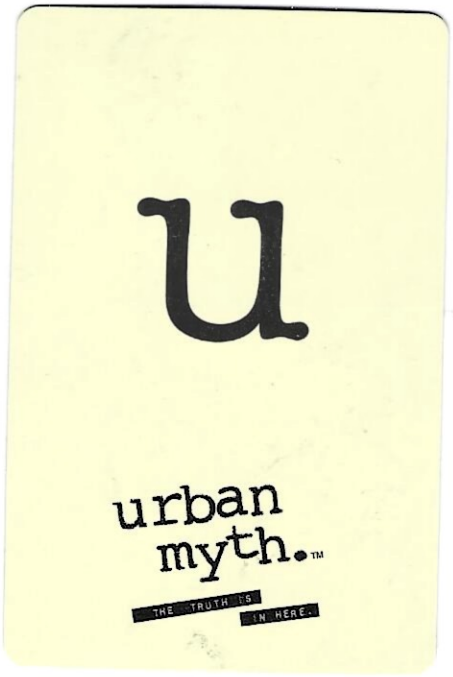
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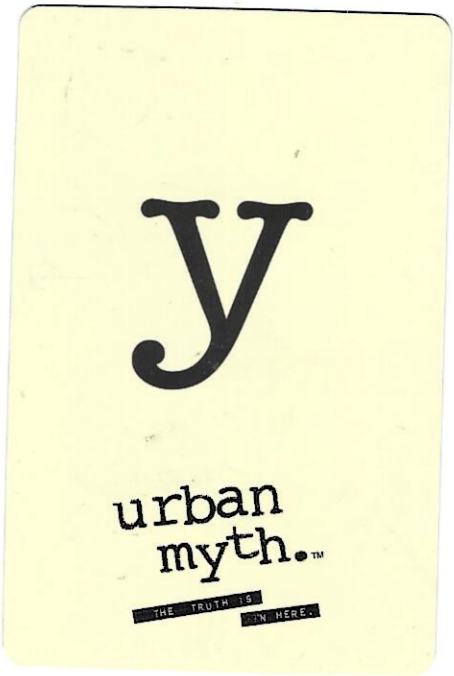
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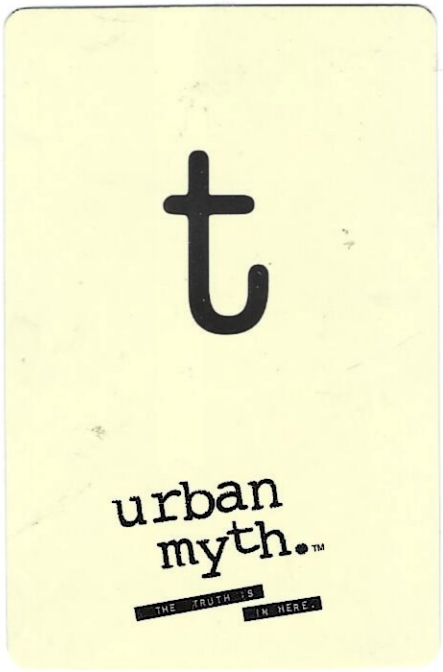
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Nature.

Domestic dogs learn how to bark from other domestic dogs.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

560

Health.

A Maui, Hawaii store clerk died after coming in contact with rat droppings in the shop's store-room.

(Myth)

A London clothing manufacturer marketed 'X-ray proof undergarments' to shy women at the turn of the century.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

549

Health.

The average person gives off about the same amount of heat an hour as a 120-watt light bulb.

(True)

Pop star Michael Jackson holds the world record for the most elective plastic surgery done.

(Myth)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

551

Health.

George Washington had four sets of false teeth, including one made from the teeth of dead people.

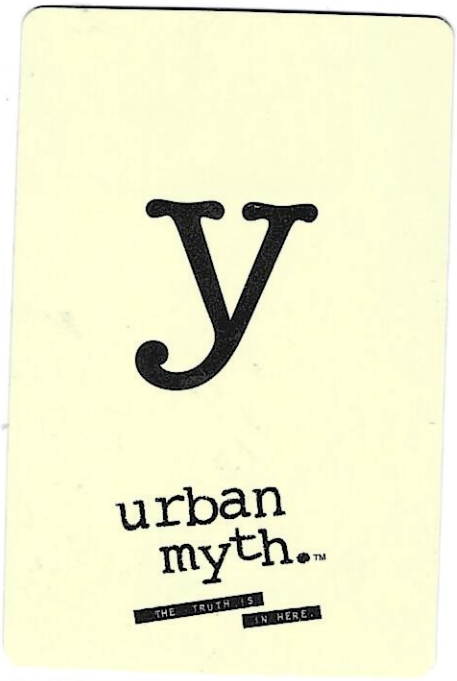
(True)

New Jersey once considered banning X-ray glasses designed to look through women's clothes.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

550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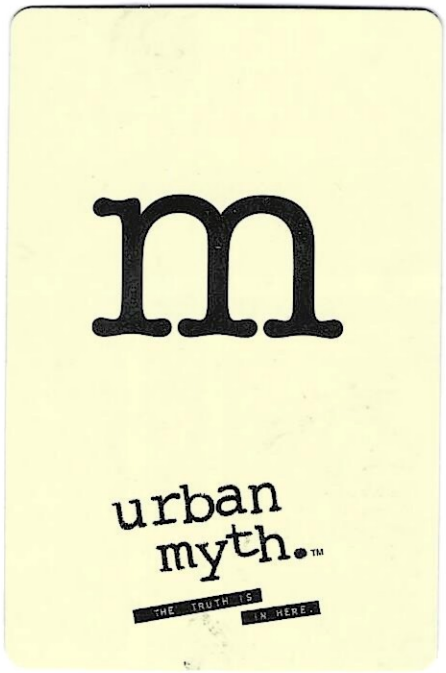
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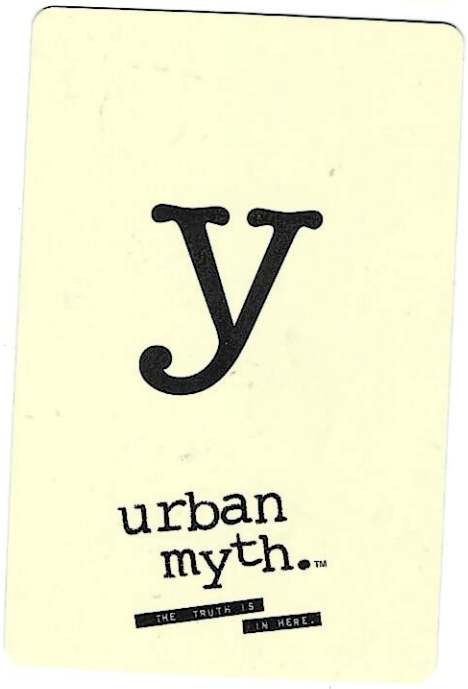
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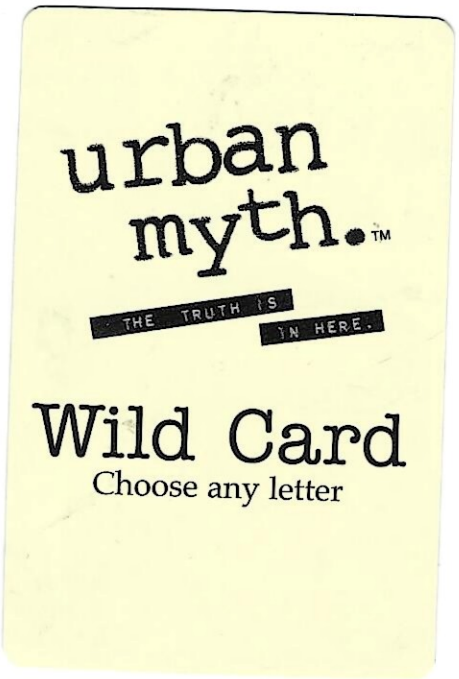
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IN HERE.
Wild Card
Choose any letter

Health.

Florence Nightingale only worked for two years as a nurse.

(True)

A decapitated human head appears to remain conscious for up to 15 seconds.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

553

Health.

Napoleon's penis sold at an auction for $3,800 in 1977.

(True)

Nitrous oxide was used for 'laughing gas parties' long before it was used as an anaesthetic.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

552

Health.

Eating oysters can increase a man's libido.

(Myth)

Russian tsar Peter the Great liked to play dentist and delighted in pulling out his subjects' teeth.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

569

Health.

Chewing gum takes seven years to make its way through the human digestive system.

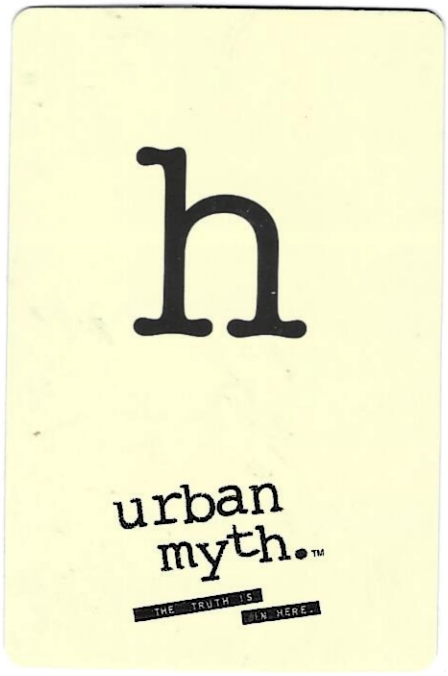
(Myth)

Variety stores in the 1920's sold a chocolate bar laced with radium called the Rejuvinator.

(True)

urban myth.™ THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

568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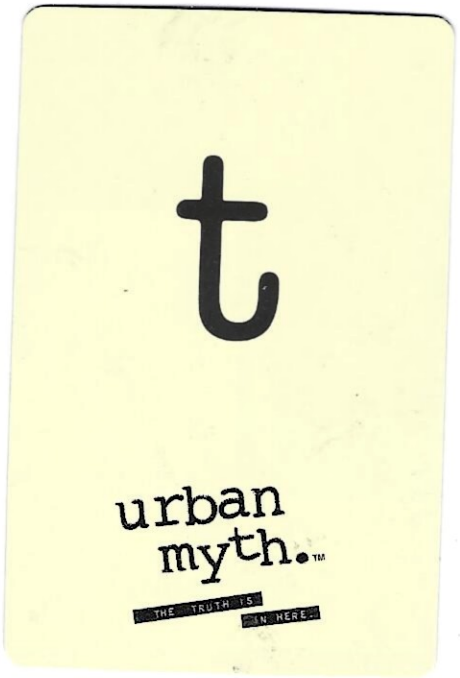
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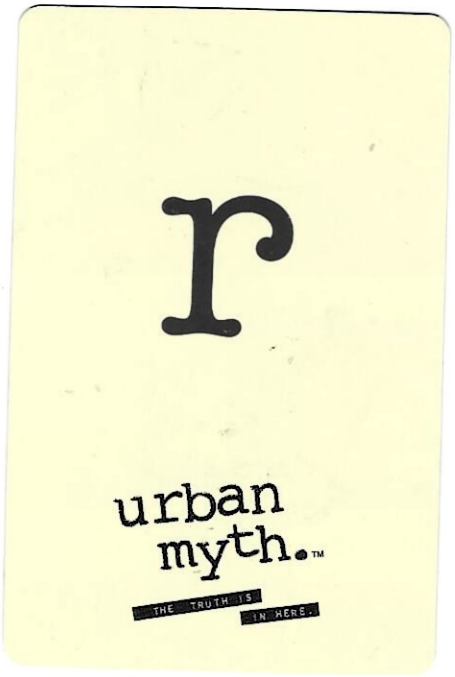
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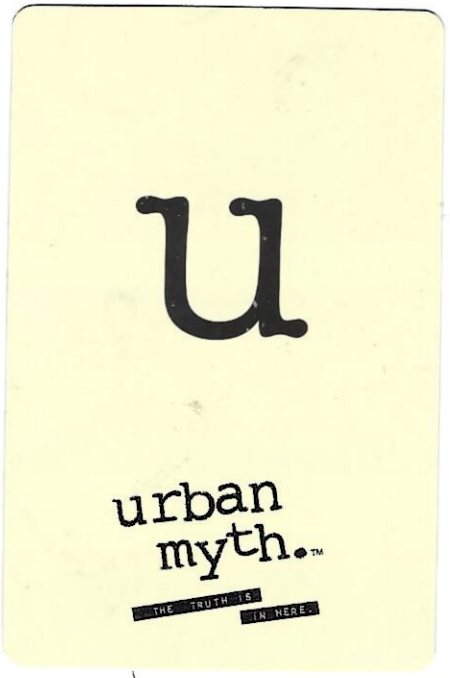
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Health.

Several people have died from drinking soda pop out of cans contaminated by rat urine.

(Myth)

Radium was a popular additive to paint, face cream, hair tonics and toothbrushes in the 1920's.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

571

Health.

Waterproof sunscreen can cause blindness if it gets in your eyes.

(Myth)

Sigmund Freud's enthusiasm for cocaine as a local anaesthetic led to a wave of cocaine addiction in Europe.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

570

Health.

The number of patients admitted to mental hospitals increases during a full moon.

(Myth)

Headaches cost the U.S. economy $25 million a year in lost productivity.

(True)

urban myth.™

THE TRUTH IS IN HERE.

573

Health.

The leading cause of breast cancer is the use of anti-perspirants.

(Myth)

Gangster John Dillinger paid $5,000 to have his facial features altered and his fingerprints removed.

(True)

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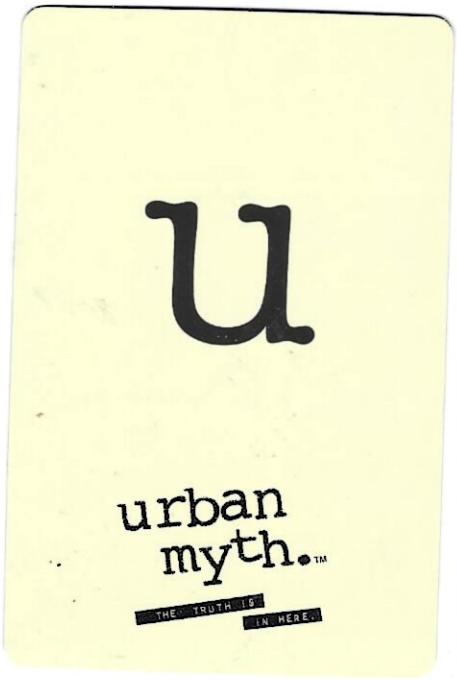
572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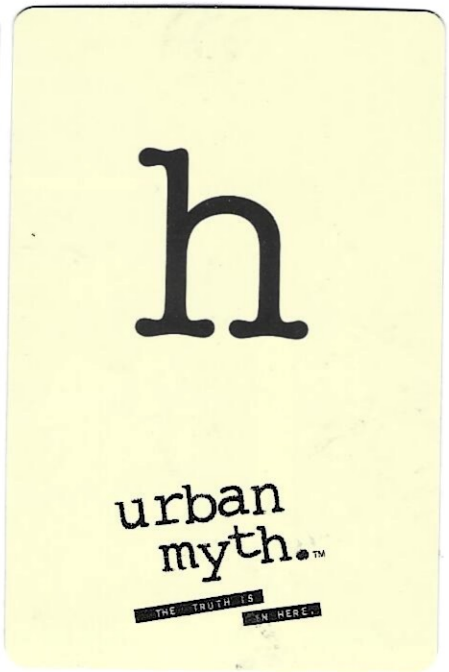
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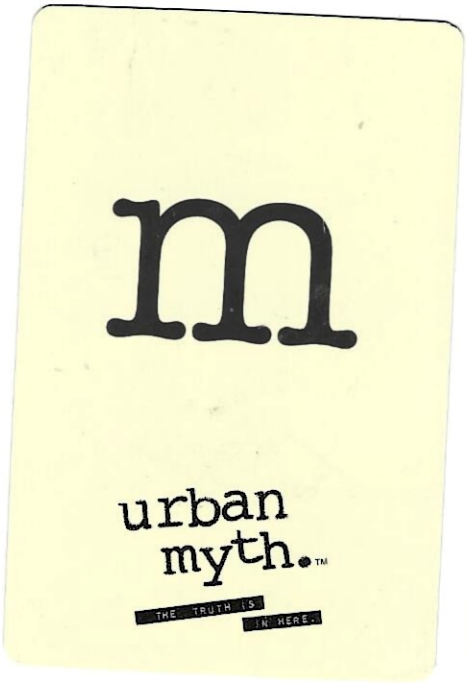
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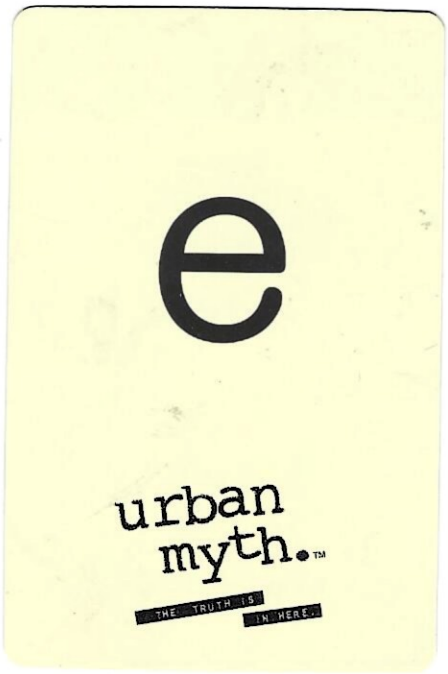
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Health.

Penicillin kills bacteria.

(Myth)

Eating carrots is good for your eyes.

(True)

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Health.

One hundred years ago, it was illegal to chew tobacco in Hartford, Connecticut, without a note from your doctor.

(True)

There are more suicides over Christmas than any other season.

(Myth)

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Health.

Antiperspirants stop the body from sweating.

(Myth)

English beer contains fish guts.

(True)

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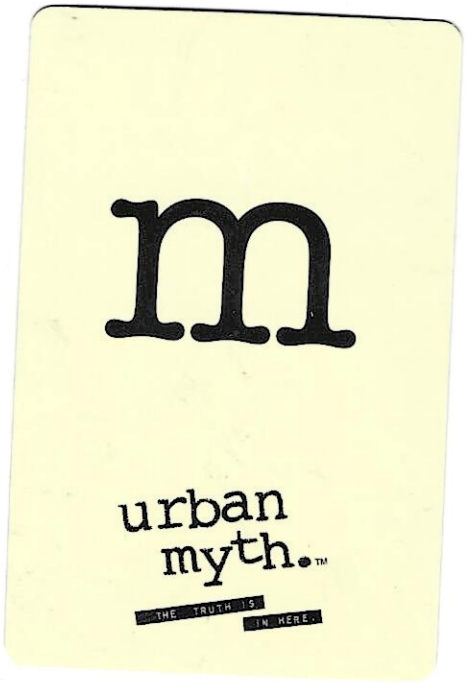
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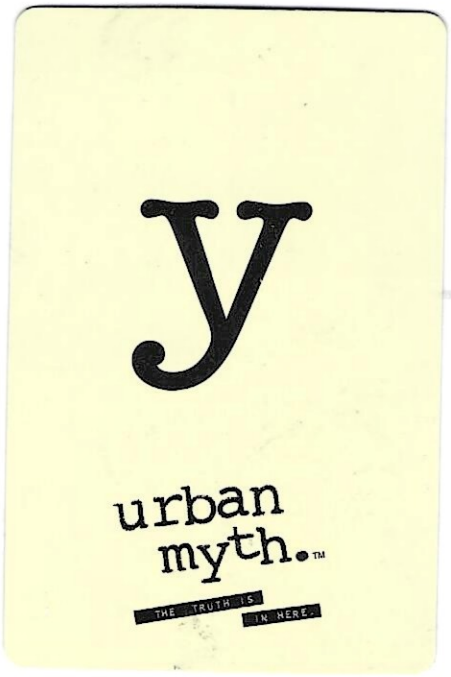
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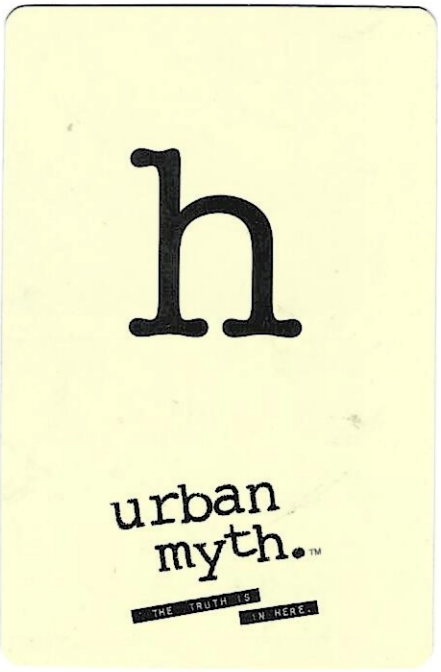
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Health.

Your heart is on the left side of your chest.

(Myth)

Tomatoes were once considered poisonous.

(True)

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Health.

Blind people have better hearing than people who can see.

(Myth)

22 different bones make up the human skull.

(True)

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Health.

Alcohol helps you sleep.

(Myth)

A bee sting can relieve arthritis, rheumatism, and gout.

(True)

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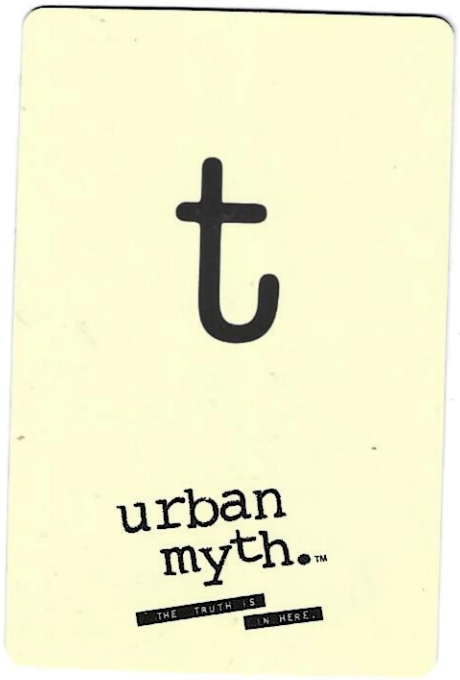
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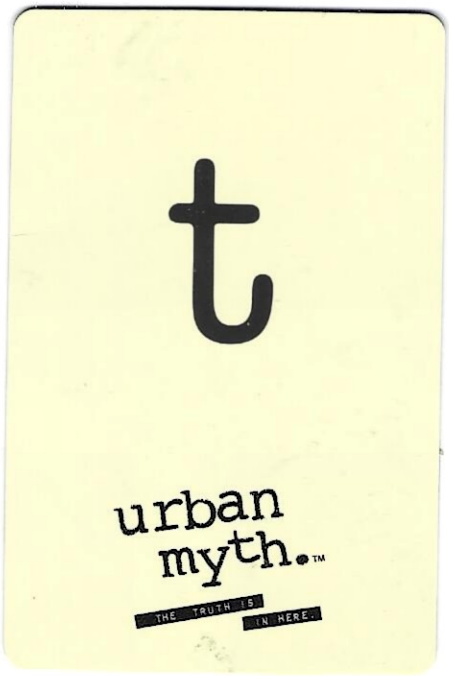
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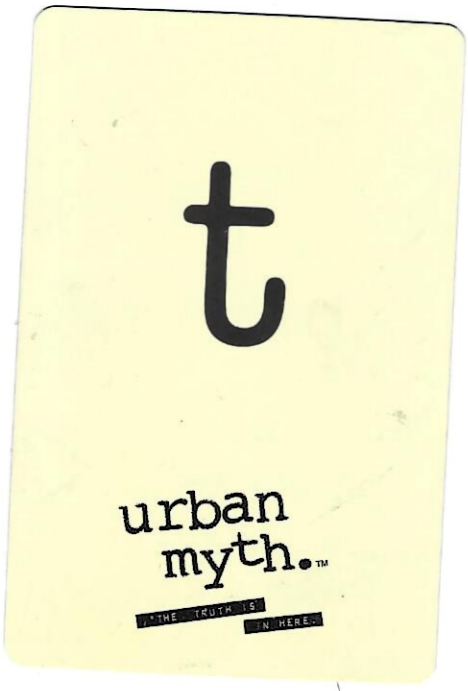
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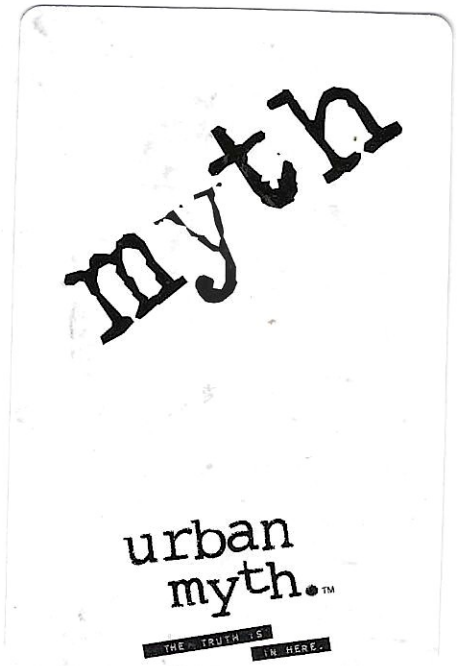
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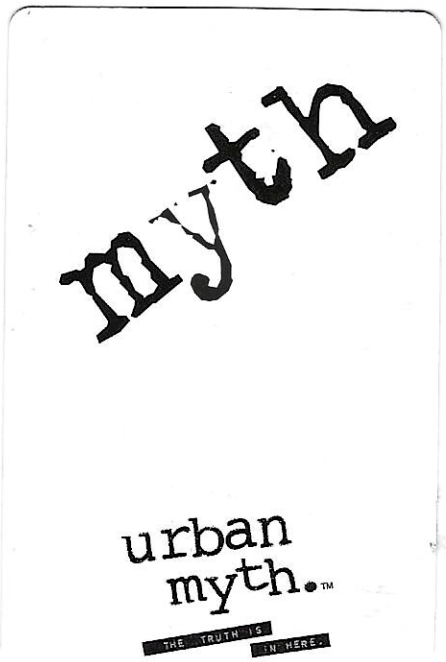
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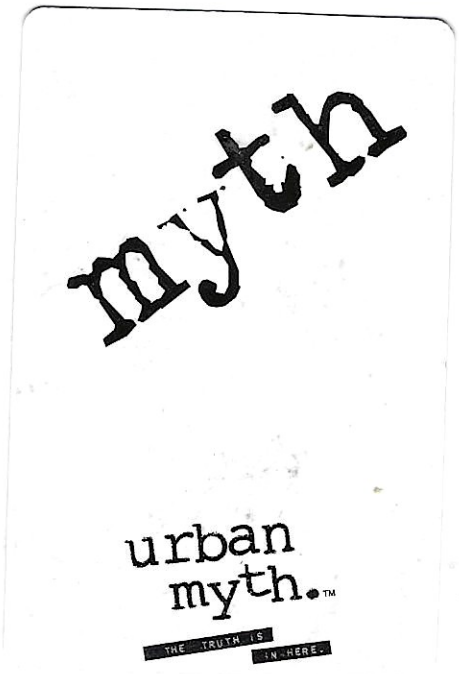
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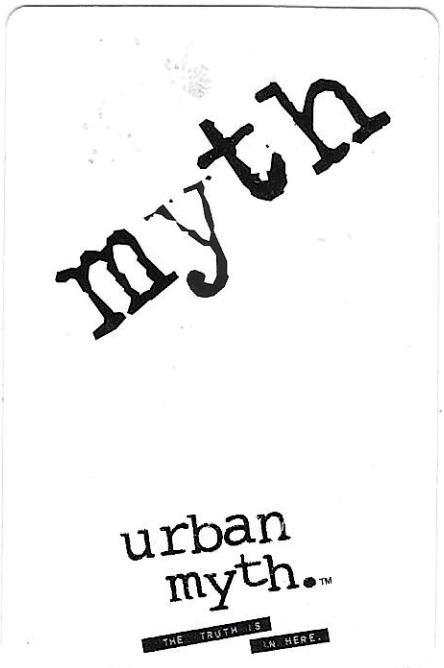
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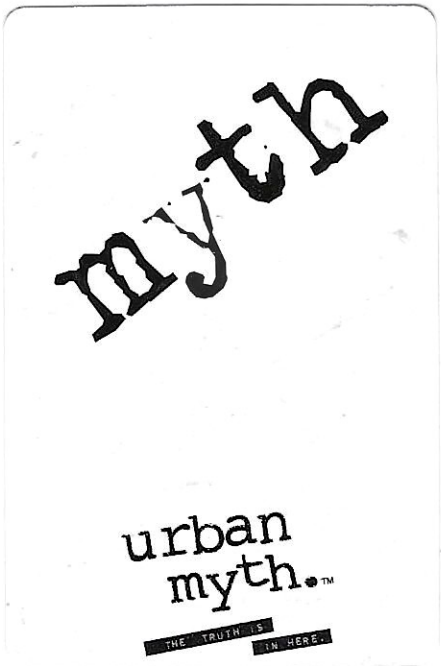
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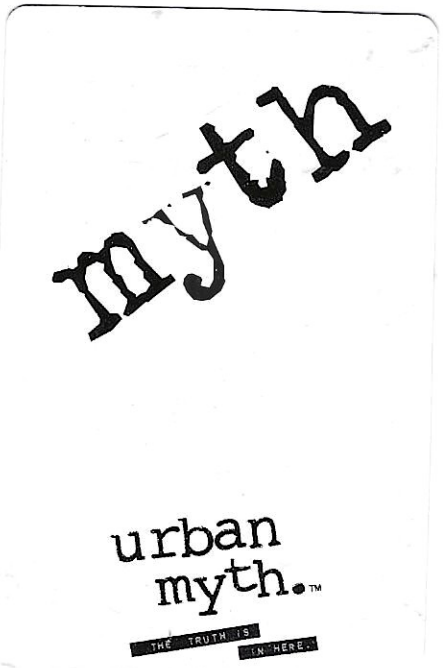
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Sometimes, truth can be every bit as strange as fiction and fiction can sound like truth. The challenge of Urban Myth is to differentiate between fact and modern folklore - between what you thought you knew and what you have heard as gospel truth from a trusted friend.

TRUTH OR MYTH?

TRUTH OR MYTH? Movie star Marilyn Monroe wore a size 16 dress.

TRUTH OR MYTH? There are alligators living in the New York sewer systems.

TRUTH OR MYTH? An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

TRUTH OR MYTH? Bats are blind.

TRUTH OR MYTH? Gangster Al Capone was the first American to make $100 million a year.

TRUTH OR MYTH? A judge once awarded $3,500 in damages to an elephant injured in a water skiing accident.

This product complies to all safety requirements of ASTM F 963

RUMBA GAMES

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